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Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Views Israel's Aims in South Lebanon

NC0606154991 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 6 Jun 91

[Text] PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has met with Secretary General Perez de Cuellar and discussed the Israeli raids. In an interview published today in AL-HAYAH newspaper, 'Arafat said that the recent Israeli raids against the Lebanese south suggest that a large-scale military operation is about to take place in southern Lebanon.

'Arafat added: It is possible that the Israelis intend to reach the al-Awwali River as a way of responding to the Syrian-Lebanese agreement and the Palestinian-Lebanese dialogue and in order to undermine the talks and efforts for peace in the region.

'Arafat accused Israel of using the water of the al-Litani River. He said: The war for water is now part of the political conflict. 'Arafat noted that the Israelis maintain their presence in the border strip in southern Lebanon for several reasons. He said: We should not forget that this border strip gives the Israelis control of the sources of three Lebanese rivers: Al-Wazzani, al-Hasbani, and al-Litani.

'Arafat added: The Israelis are diverting the entire water supply of these rivers to the occupied territories. They are drawing the water of al-Litani at Dayr Nahhas, near Qal'at al-Shaqif. They have dug a tunnel there through which they draw water and generate electricity, 'Arafat said.

'Arafat firmly asserted that the PLO backs the Lebanese Government's efforts to extend its authority over all Lebanese territory. He noted that the PLO will not give the Israelis a pretext for staying in southern Lebanon, if Israel wants to withdraw.

'Arafat headed several meetings of the Palestinian leadership in Tunis in which the situation in southern Lebanon was discussed.

'Arafat Chairs 'Important Meeting' on Lebanon

LD0606193391 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 6 Jun 91

[Excerpts] The Palestinian leadership last night held an important meeting under the chairmanship of brother president-leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the State of Palestine, upon his arrival from Abuja. The leader cut short his attendance at the OAU meetings following the development of the situation and the escalation of the Israeli aggression against the Palestinian camps and the Lebanese villages and towns in southern Lebanon.

The Palestinian leadership examined information and pointers in its hands; all of them showed the premeditated intentions and aims of the Israeli enemy to harm the Palestinian presence in southern Lebanon. [passage omitted]

The leadership was also briefed in detail by the Lebanon Committee on the situation in southern Lebanon. During the meeting contact was made with the leadership in southern Lebanon in Sidon to followup the latest development and its dimensions, since it became clear that the Israeli enemy has sent tanks and artillery to the border zone during the previous 24 hours.

The Palestinian leadership has decided to hold meetings as necessary in order to follow the developments as they occur, given the fact that Israeli raids, artillery and missile shelling, and shelling by the Israeli Navy against southern Lebanon have been taking place for 3 days now.

Mahmud 'Abbas on Gulf Relations, Peace Process

JN0706082791 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 7 Jun 91 pp 1, 13

[By Sa'd al-Silawi]

[Text] Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, member of the PLO Executive Committee and Fatah Central Committee, has refuted reports that Gulf countries no longer believe in the PLO as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

In his first interview since the outbreak of the Gulf crisis, 'Abbas told SAWT AL-SHA'B that according to PLO information, Gulf countries and Saudi Arabia still believe in the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinian people and in the need to have the PLO participate in any peace process.

He added that Gulf countries and their leaders know full well and appreciate the importance of the PLO for the Palestinian people. They also know that differences are bound to disappear in the end. He expressed the hope that efforts by well-meaning people will bear fruit soon so as to heal the rift and bandage the wounds as soon as possible.

Asked about the return to normal of Palestinian-Gulf relations, Mahmud 'Abbas said: We in the PLO are very much concerned with dissipating the clouds that prevailed over relations with our brothers in the Gulf countries, so that matters will return to normal and relations to the previous situation. He expressed the hope that the near future will witness a whole series of good offices toward this objective. "I do not believe that any of us would want to see these clouds forever prevail over brotherly relations. This is because the Arab nation needs to restore cohesion and rise above past mistakes and tragedies, inasmuch as working for the future is much more important than dwelling on the past. We are all for frankness and openness so we may derive lessons and the past will not be repeated."

Asserting that the PLO is dealing seriously with the peace efforts undertaken by the United States and expressing the belief that these efforts are serious, he said: We in the PLO are eager to establish peace in the region. For us, it is a strategic, not tactical, question. We hope that these efforts, which Arabs have dealt with in a

flexible manner, will not reach a dead end. But this will happen because of Israel's recalcitrance on the peace process and even on matters of procedure and form that include the framework of the conference and the problem of some parties' attendance. In this regard, we do not know what the Israeli position will be like when the solution that is supposed to lead to permanent peace is discussed.

'Abbas added: The United States, which sought to enforce international legitimacy through all means in the Gulf, should seek to implement international legitimacy through all means in the Middle East. The United States can do it; we do not believe that it cannot. Anyone who tries to portray the U.S. Administration as unable to talk Israel into holding a peace conference and reaching a settlement in the Middle East is deceiving himself and depriving matters of their real essence.

Regarding the formation of a delegation to attend the proposed conference and the formulas proposed for this delegation, the PLO Executive Committee member said: This falls within the context of internal Arab affairs and it should not be raised so that it will not become a problem to focus on. It concerns us Arabs. Therefore, it will be discussed among ourselves, and, specifically, when serious coordination among the five parties involved begins.

Regarding an expected meeting of the Arab frontline states, which the PLO is seeking to convene, 'Abbas stressed the importance of the meeting, which Palestinian leaders believe is a must. He pointed out that no agreement has been reached nor a date set for such a meeting.

Regarding his visit to Cairo, Mahmud 'Abbas, Abu-Mazin, said: The visit is a continuation of previous visits and falls within the context of resuming coordination now that the climate has been cleansed and relations with Egypt have become normal, especially since there are many issues over which there has to be coordination. At the same time, we continue our constant contacts and coordination with Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon. We are interested in continuing this coordination so as to integrate the Arab position on peace and Arab action for a peace conference.

Regarding his majesty the king's recent statements stressing the need to achieve peace, Abu-Mazin said: We in the PLO understand his majesty the king's statements as demonstrating Jordan's readiness to enter into a comprehensive settlement to the Middle East problem. The statements also demonstrate seriousness and flexibility on the part of an important Arab party in this settlement. Our ties with Jordan are at their best, and joint coordination is at its highest level and is conducted openly and intensively.

Regarding the Arab League's expected role, Mahmud 'Abbas said that it will play its role in Cairo as it did in Tunis, where the Tunisian Government provided all means to help it fulfill its role and shoulder its responsibility in full. We believe the Egyptian Government will also provide the Arab League with such an opportunity. This will not be something new because the Arab League used to be based in Egypt.

Regarding the convening of the Palestine National Council [PNC], Abu-Mazin said: There is talk about a preparatory committee to call the PNC into session, because the legal deadline to convene it is approaching and it has to be convened. There is no other reason for convening the PNC.

Regarding the participation of new Palestinian factions, particularly Hamas, in the PLO, the PLO Executive Committee member said: We welcome any Palestinian faction that comes into the PNC, including Hamas.

'Abbas denied reports that there are plans to transform PLO factions into political parties. He said the reports are untrue and the matter has not been discussed.

Algeria

FLN Bureau Says Exceptional Measures Necessary

LD0606162691 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 6 Jun 91

[Text] The National Liberation Front Political Bureau, which met this morning to assess the development of the political and security situation in the country, believes that the exceptional measures taken by the president of the republic are a necessary response to the development of this situation, even though, regrettably, they constitute a set-back to the democratic process which was aimed at the establishment of a democratic regime based on multiplicity of parties and citizens' free choice. The interests of the country and the citizens require the cooperation of all patriotic forces in order to emerge from the exceptional situation as soon as possible and return to the natural democratic course.

Ghozali, Parties Discuss Cabinet Formation

LD0706125791 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1145 GMT 7 Jun 91

[Text] Since yesterday afternoon, there has been a marathon-like movement in the hall and offices of the Foreign Ministry, where Mr. Sid Ahmed Ghozali has begun his consultations and contacts with a group of party leaders and public figures. Consultations have not stopped. They are continuing in accordance with a prepared schedule. This is what we have received so far from sources close to Mr. Sid Ahmed Ghozali.

Meanwhile, parties are still divided in their positions. Some are posing conditions, others are refusing, and others are supportive. Ideas, too range from proposals for an independent government of technocrats to prepare for the legislative elections, to a provisional national government composed of a group of parties and public figures.

Kasdi Merbah Urges Lifting of State of Siege

LD0706085191 Paris Radio France International in French 0530 GMT 7 Jun 91

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Yesterday a large number of town halls controlled by the Islamic Salvation Front continued to observe the watchword for an indefinite strike. Algiers Town Hall has begun to make public, by means of an electronic notice board, the lists of what it calls the martyrs and also those injured in the latest demonstrations: 26 bodies are reported to have been counted in the mortuary of one of the two biggest hospitals of Algiers, the Mustapha Hospital. In the meantime Ahmed Ghozali, the new prime minister, has been continuing his consultations to form what should be a combat government rather than a national unity team. Listen to what one of his predecessors, Kasdi Merbah [former prime minister, now leader of the Algerian Movement for Justice and Development], in the opposition today, says to Christophe Boisbouvier:

[Begin recording] [Merbah] The state of siege must be lifted and the electoral laws must be revised. The election constituencies in particular should be revised. The date of the legislative elections should be set in agreement with all the parties.

[Boisbouvier] Would your party be ready to cohabit with the FIS in a government of national unity?

[Merbah] Personally, I say that we are ready to cohabit with all Algerians.

[Boisbouvier] To your knowledge are the Islamists ready to enter a government of national unity?

[Merbah] No, not to my knowledge, but I know that they too are in favor of a dialogue and they are in favor of discussing things with the president of the Republic to try to find a way out of the crisis.

[Boisbouvier] Does that mean that one can imagine Islamist ministers in the government in a few days' time?

[Merbah] That seems difficult to me. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Meeting of Opposition Parties Postponed

LD0606192591 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 6 Jun 91

[Text] A meeting which was due to be held by democratic opposition parties has been postponed until the beginning of next week, with a view to bringing together the largest number of political formations which are concerned, and to give them more time to assess the political developments since the declaration of the state of siege.

Egypt

Foreign Minister Comments on Peace Process

NC0606153091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT 6 Jun 91

[Text] Cairo, 6 Jun (MENA)—Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has announced that he will visit Syria on Tuesday [11 June] for talks with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' as a follow-up to the talks Presidents Husni Mubarak and Hafiz al-Asad held in Cairo yesterday.

Musa emphasized that Syria's participation in the peace process is important. He said Syria's view is of special significance as there can be no peace in the region without taking their view into consideration.

Commenting on the U.N. role in the peace process, Mr. Musa asserted that the peace process in the region is based on the UN and Security Council resolutions, particularly Resolutions 242 and 338. He stressed the need for Palestinian participation in the peace process, because the issue is basically a Palestinian issue and there must be Palestinians to discuss it.

'Amr Musa Welcomes Shamir Territories Statement

NC0706105091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1005 GMT 7 Jun 91

[Text] Cairo, 7 Jun (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today described Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's remarks on Israeli radio the day before yesterday that the West Bank and Gaza could be negotiated [yumkin al-tafawud bisha'nihima] as a positive development and a step in the right direction. In a statement today, the foreign minister expressed his belief that such a development, if proven true, could help launch the peace process in the Middle East.

Foreign Minister Comments on Disarmament

NC0606193191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1545 GMT 6 Jun 91

[Text] Cairo, 6 Jun (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said today that Egypt's stand on the elimination of weapons of mass destruction stems from President Husni Mubarak's initiative to set up a demilitarized zone in the Middle East.

He added that U.S. President Bush's initiative regarding this is evidence of his concern over Mideast armament, and that the proposals contained in the initiative are integral and deal with the elimination of nuclear and chemical weapons.

Musa said these proposals are being studied in light of the disarmament process so that process is a balanced one, that does not compromise security or give one country an advantage over another.

He said he believes the disarmament issue cannot be ignored because it has international dimensions and global disarmament has become an important issue.

He said: If we turn to the regional aspect of the issue, regional parties must be alert to preserving their interests through balance, parallelism, and important verification measures.

The foreign minister concluded his statement by saying that in general, Egypt welcomes all initiatives on Mideast disarmament, including that of President Bush and the French initiative announced by President Mitterrand.

'Amr Musa Interviewed on Bush Arms Initiative

PM0706094991 Cairo AL-ANBA' in Arabic 4 Jun 91 p 1

[Khadijah Hammudah report: "Egyptian Foreign Minister Tells AL-ANBA': Stockpiling Of U.S. Arms in Israel Represents No Danger to Arab Security"—formerly Kuwait AL-ANBA']

[Text] Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has emphasized that the stockpiling of U.S. arms represents no danger to pan-Arab or Egyptian security, especially as we are now talking about the elimination of the weapons of mass destruction from the Middle East region.

In a statement to AL-ANBA' he cited U.S. President Bush's initiative in this regard, saying that it agrees in its philosophy with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's initiative for ridding the region of these weapons. Within the context of such an arrangement we can spare the region numerous dangers.

The Arab League is the framework for Arab cooperation and integration, he said, and now that the Arab League has returned to Cairo and everyone has returned to it and in view of the storm that happened following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, Arab action must center on sound, uncontested, and acceptable foundations.

He pointed out that these foundations are represented in the Arab League Charter, which in turn centers on the UN Charter. Therefore, he added, working within the Arab League framework is important and fundamental.

On the amendment of the Arab League Charter urged by many voices to avoid the points of weakness in it, 'Amr Musa emphasized that committees have been formed to work in that context. This is in addition to the ideas being discussed in this regard. He also said that this is not a shortcoming in itself, because the objective is to avoid any future error like that which occurred during the Kuwait crisis.

Foreign Minister Meets With PLO's 'Abbas

NC0606164691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1609 GMT 6 Jun 91

[Text] Cairo, 6 Jun (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa received PLO Executive Committee Member Mahmud 'Abbas today. 'Abbas is currently visiting Cairo. They reviewed all Arab and international contacts and efforts to advance the peace process and the Palestinian issue, the core of conflict in the region.

Palestine's Ambassador in Cairo Sa'id Kamal and the Fatah Movement representative in Cairo, Zuhdi al-Qidrah, attended the meeting.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi on 'Crusade War' With U.S., Scuds

LD0606151991 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1115 GMT 6 Jun 91

[Text] Tripoli, 6 Jun, (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution [Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi] has spoken to the press delegation accompanying the Italian prime minister on a range of international issues, and, to a question on his view on the possibility of convening a Middle East peace conference, he said that convening a Middle East peace conference will not lead to a solution to the problem because the Israelis have gone far from the possibility of any solution. They have altered the nature of Palestine, driven out four million Palestinians, Judaized

the territories they occupied in 1967, set up hundreds of settlements, and are on their way to changing the nature of the land they occupied in 1967, just as they changed the nature of Palestine itself after 1948.

The brother leader pointed out that America's alliance with the Israelis and its slogan that it is "with the Israelis always" have made the Israelis become obdurate. As long as America is with them, encouraging them, they do not need peace. Answering another question over his assessment of the general situation after the Gulf war, the brother leader affirmed that there were beneficial lessons and results, irrespective of who was the wrongdoer and who was wronged in this war. This war, he said, has left wounds and bitterness, and deepened enmity between East and West. Despite the fact that we were against Saddam in the occupation of Kuwait, Arabs now dislike America more than at any time in the past, including the Kuwaitis.

The leader said: It has become clear to the Arabs now that there was no interest for them in their relations with America. America sabotages and destroys, and it is not committed to ethics or international law. Sometimes, it destroys even its own interests, because it is a tyrannical imperialist power. This is not because the Americans are bad in themselves, but this is the behavior of any superpower in the world, like Hitler, Mussolini, Hulago, Genghis Khan, Napoleon, Alexander of Macedon, Reagan, and Bush. They all belong on one list.

The Japanese people and the German people have been blackmailed even in the Gulf war, just as they paid the price for the situation in which World War II ended. The brother leader wondered about the commitment of Germany and Japan to finance the Gulf war, and pointed out that Japan had been bombed with American atomic bombs, and it is still subordinate, and because Germany was defeated in World War II and is divided [as received], they are still paying the price, and this has left bitterness to the Japanese people and the German people, as if they were in 1945.

The brother leader stressed that East-West relations, which were repaired a little, have now been sabotaged—as we see today—and these are the results of the Gulf war, and America's intervention in this war and in the region. This escalation will lead us to a very big confrontation, and it will lead us to a Crusade war which we believed we had transcended. The brother leader stressed in his statement that America is paving the way for a Crusade war, whether it is aware of this or not, because these interventons escalate enmity and depict the conflict as if it is between Christians and Muslims. He affirmed that the world is now considerably deteriorating.

The brother leader said that America wants to regulate everything in the world, and to make the world adhere to its will, and he underlined that peoples do not accept this, nor do they accept its presence in the region. He said these peoples are ready to fight it, even if they have to commit suicide, pointing out what happened in Lebanon when one fida'i [one who sacrifices himself] committed suicide in return for 300 American soldiers, and another fida'i killed 300 French troops in return for taking his own life. [casualty figures as received]

The leader further said: From the first day we stood against the entry of the Iraqi forces to Kuwait, and up to the last night before the allied attack I was asking Saddam to withdraw from Kuwait, and we have absolutely not supported him.

On whether the Great Jamahiriyah intends to buy Scud missiles from North Korea, he said: We wish we had missiles with a 1,000 kilometer range, because the presence of these missiles would have prevented the aggression against the house which is in front of you, and if America knew that we had such missiles, it would not have hit our children while they were asleep. He stressed that deterrence is important, pointing out that peace after World War II was based on mutual deterrence. He also underlined that if Libya had missiles, the raid would not have taken place against it.

He stressed that the reports regarding Scuds were not true, saying that the Jamahiriyah had indeed tried to get these missiles from Korea, but this was useless as Korea does not have such missiles.

Libyan Delegation Withdraws from OAU Summit

91P40306A Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1530 GMT 4 Jun 91

The Libyan delegation withdrew from the 27th summit conference of the OAU yesterday evening immediately following the start of the opening session. The summit had convened its session in the Nigerian city of Ubuja. The delegation withdrew in protest over the "unfriendly position" Nigeria had taken against the Libyan Arab People on the issue of the U.S. piracy carried out by the CIA against a number of Libyan Arab citizens following the collapse of Chadian dictator Hissein Habre's regime.

The delegation's withdrawal from the summit also ocurred as an expression of protest by the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah against Nigeria's intervention in the internal affairs of several African nations, including Liberia, which is in keeping with U.S. policy on the African continent.

AMU Summit Viewed With Mauritanian Official

LD0706085991 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0300 GMT 7 Jun 91

[Text] The brother secretary of the General People's Committee for External Liaison and International Cooperation met yesterday evening in Tripoli with Brother Hasni Ould Didi, the minister of foreign affairs and cooperation in sister Mauritania. The talks focused on preparations for the proceedings of the extraordinary session of the AMU [Arab Maghreb Union] Presidential Council which will be held in the Great Jamahiriyah and

in the implementation of the resolution of the AMU summit which was held in Ra's Lanuf last March.

Mauritania

Violent Demonstration Reported in Nouadhibou

AB0306192491 London BBC World Service in English 1705 GMT 3 Jun 91

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Mauritania's economic capital, Nouadhibou, was the scene of a big demonstration at the weekend. On the face of it, the demonstrators were angry about price rises, but it seems there was also strong antigovernment feeling at play. From the capital, Nouakchott, (Che Bakhai) telexed this report:

Demonstrators smashed shops and broke into government buildings. According to informed sources, the offices of Mauritania Airways and the government-owned import-export society were among those attacked by the crowds. Bread shops were also broken into. However, I understand that police intervention was not significant.

There is little information reaching here as to exactly what is behind the trouble. Some say that the riots were the result of a government announcement that the price of flour was about to go up. However, many observers believe that the real root of the problem is political. The speculation is that some of Mauritania's political parties may be stirring up antigovernment feelings. These parties are calling on the government to resign and form a government of national unity to prepare the way for a return to full multiparty democracy.

The government plans to hold a referendum before the end of this year on the Constitution, followed by presidential elections sometime next year. Mauritanian public opinion is divided into two main blocs: the opposition block wants a constitutional conference to debate the problems of the country and the formation of an interim civilian government to prepare a new constitution and supervise the whole democratic process. This bloc is made up of black Mauritanians, Marxists, and the liberals. In the other camp are the pan-Arab nationalists, like the Ba'thists and the Nasserites, and these support the government's rejection of the opposition demands. [end recording]

Former Ministers Said Arrested Over Bread Riot

AB0606134691 Paris AFP in English 1301 GMT 6 Jun 91

[Text] Nouakchott, June 6 (AFP)—Several people, including two former ministers, were arrested Wednesday night and blamed for the violent riots that hit Mauritania's port town of Nouadhibou Sunday, reliable sources said Thursday. They could not state how many were arrested.

On Tuesday night Interior Minister Lieutenant-Colonel Sheikh Sid 'Ahmed Ould Baba warned over radio and television that "all necessary measures would be taken to safeguard order."

The sources said Djibril Ould Abdallahi, a former interior minister who was the regime's number two man, and Messaoud Ould Boulkheir, a former rural development minister who is also a leader of the Harattin (former slaves) movement, were among those detained Wednesday.

Two leaders of the illegal National Democratic Movement (NDM), Ladji Traore and Ould Bedr Dine, were also arrested, the sources said.

The rioting in Nouadhibou, the country's main economic center 500 kilometers (300 miles) from the capital, started over a rise in the price of bread and kept up for 10 hours. On Monday, [3 June] sources contacted by telephone from neighboring Senegal said military vehicles mounted with machine-guns had been stationed at main ponts in Nouadhibou.

Mr. Boulkheir and Mr. Traore, signatories of an open letter to President Maaoiuya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya two months ago urging democratic reforms, had both joined the new United Democratic Front (UDF) set up on Tuesday. The group was organized by six Mauritanian political movements to take part in moves towards democracy after Colonel Taya, amid growing pressure for change, announced on April that a new constitution would be put to a referendum vote "before the end of 1991." He had said it would be followed by legislative elections "in a multi-party framework."

In his warning Tuesday, the interior minister hinted at a "foreign" connection in the riots, but did not elaborate. He also linked the bread riots to a breakdown in salary negotiations between the main Union of Mauritanian Workers (UMW) and the government, blaming the deadlock on union activists in the NDM. He charged that they had "undertaken social negotiations with political aims that tended to create a climate hostile to rights" and against workers' interests.

The UMW denied the charge, however, and threatened Monday to launch "widespread action" in response to the breakdown, while countercharging that it was a "premeditated" move orchestrated by the state and employers. It said the Nouadhibou riots showed the "frustration" of workers.

Labor Leader, Others Reported Arrested

LD0606085191 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 5 Jun 91

[Text] In Mauritania, a United Democratic Front of Forces for Change [FDCU] was set up today. The FDCU is formed of six opposition movements and independent personalities.

Also, a dozen people have been arrested in Nouadhibou, including (Sidi Ould Mohamed Sahel), member of the national bureau of the Mauritanian Workers Union. These

arrests took place following the firm statement of the Mauritanian interior minister intended for the Workers Union, which threatens to start a strike next Monday.

Sudan

Islamic Front in Tunis, Algiers Disturbances

NC0606162791 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 2 Jun 91 p 9

[Report by Muhammad 'Ismat from "The Brothers" page: "After Getting Involved in the Foiled Coup Attempt in Tunisia, National Islamic Front Plans To Overthrow the Ruling Regime in Algeria"]

[Text] Informed Sudanese sources have asserted that the Islamic Front government in Sudan was involved in planning the coup attempt that was recently foiled by the Tunisian authorities. The sources said a meeting was held in the home of National Islamic Front leader Hasan al-Turabi in the al-Manshiyah district in Khartoum between al-Turabi, Revolution Command Council Chairman 'Umar al-Bashir, Rashid al-Ghannushi, Mahdi Ibrahim, and a number of the front's leaders. During that meeting, they decided to draw up the plan that the Tunisian Islamist politicians would carry out to overthrow the regime and seize authority.

It was also agreed during the meeting that chaos should be created in the Tunisian streets by assassinating a number of public and government figures, declaring civilian disobedience, and organizing demonstrations to pave the way for Islamists to take control.

The sources point out that the Islamic Front's government is currently considering ways to cause disturbances in Algeria as a prologue to a coup attempt there. According to the same sources, a meeting was recently held between Hasan al-Turabi and Algerian Islamic Salvation Front Chairman Abassi Madani, leader of the political Islamists in Algeria, on the sidelines of the Islamic conference held recently in Khartoum. The sources assert also that Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman, one of al-Turabi's senior aides, held a meeting last week in the Yemeni capital of Sanaa, with (Ali Belhaj), number two man in the Algerian Islamic Front. The meeting was attended by a number of the Algerian Front's leaders, including al-Dardiri Muhammad Ahmad and Muhiy-al-Din al-Jumay'abi. During that meeting, the conferees agreed on the general guidelines of a plan to incite demonstrations in Algiers, as well as on a working program to overthrow the regime and help the Islamists seize authority in Algeria.

Kuwait

800,000 BPD Oil Loan Requested From GCC

LD0306222891 London KUNA in Arabic 1826 GMT 3 Jun 91

[Excerpts] Vienna 3 June (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Petroleum Minister Dr. Hammud 'Abdallah al-Ruqba, said here today that the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] countries are currently discussing a request by Kuwait to lend it 800,000 oil barrels everyday to face up to the difficult circumstances of the Kuwaiti oil sector resulting from the Iraqi regime's destruction of the Kuwaiti oil installations and from the burning of the oil wells which is hindering production.

In a press conference on the sidelines of his participation in the meetings of OPEC oil and energy ministers in Vienna, Dr. al-Ruqba said that Kuwait has made its application to the GCC countries according to the lending system in the field of oil among the GCC countries. [passage omitted] Dr. al-Ruqba reiterated that controling the oil fires in Kuwait will remain the absolute priority in current Kuwaiti policy. He pointed out that until yesterday, Sunday, the fires or leakages of oil had been brought under control in 140 wells out of between 600 and 700 wells set on fire or destroyed by the Iraqi regime.

Dr. al-Ruqba estimated Kuwait's losses from the fires at between 6 and 7 million barrels a day, leaking out or burning, i.e. between $40 and $50 billion a year. [passage omitted]

The Kuwaiti petroleum minister predicted that oil production in Kuwaiti will be resumed by the end of this month or the beginning of next month. About 50,000 barrels a day will be produced to meet some of Kuwait's consumption from oil and it byproducts. Which is estimated at 150 thousand barrels a day. [passage omitted]

He asserted that Kuwait will observe the OPEC official quota of 1.5 million barrels when it is able to resume production. [passage omitted]

Regarding the possibility of Kuwait accepting oil from Iraq instead of money as compensation for damage to Kuwait caused by the Iraqi invasion, the Kuwaiti petroleum minister asserted that such a matter should primarily be referred to the UN resolutions which do not, however, stipulate the possibility of Iraq paying compensation through oil. He added that he does not think that such a possibility will arise; the matter will be in the hand of the United Nations in the end, he asserted. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Presides Over Weekly Cabinet Meeting

LD0306214291 Riyadh SPA in English 1946 GMT 3 Jun 91

[Excerpt] The Eastern Province, June 3, SPA—Custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz presided over the weekly regular session of the Council of Ministers held at the al-'Azaiyah Palace here this afternoon.

Following the session, Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir told the Saudi Press Agency, SPA, that the council reviewed reports on the recent Arab and international developments including those pertaining to the Middle East issues, mainly the Palestinian question.

The council was also briefed by custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, on these topics and so positions of the Kingdom toward them.

King Fahd then briefed the cabinet on the outcome of his recent talks with the Senegalese prime minister, Mr Habib Thiam and his accompanying delegation and the Italian prime minister, Mr Giulio Andreotti on matters of mutual interests and the bilateral relations between the Kingdom and the two countries, Al-Sha'ir added.

King Fahd also told the cabinet on his extreme satisfaction over what he had seen during the military parade held by the Saudi Armed Forces yesterday. He also lauded the continuous efforts being made to upgrade capabilities of the armed forces in various training and technical aspects.

King Fahd renewed determination to reinforce the armed forces and provide the military sectors with sophisticated arms and equipments and to upgrade fighting capabilities of the various branches of the armed forces so as to cope with Kingdom's defensive requirements. [passage omitted]

Ex-Minister Suggests 'Marshall Plan' for Iraq

AU0606090491 Paris AFP in English 0841 GMT 6 Jun 91

[Text] Paris, June 6 (AFP)—Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, the former Saudi oil minister, said Iraq was now in a state of "total bankruptcy" and urged international aid for Baghdad, in an interview in the French daily LIBERATION.

He said the Gulf war had set Iraq back several centuries, but conceded that it will be "extremely difficult for the West to do anything for Iraq as long as President Saddam Husayn is in power."

Shaykh Yamani, who led Saudi Arabia's oil policy from 1962 to 1986, said political stability in the Middle East was necessary to create stable oil prices.

He suggested a type of Marshall Plan—the 1947 plan in which the United States extended aid to Europe to help postwar reconstruction—"to bring Iraq back into this century" following the destruction it suffered during the Gulf war.

Though he believed the United Nations' proposal to skim 30 per cent off Iraqi oil revenues to help pay war damages was "fair," he said "Iraq will not be able to import what it needs to meet food requirements, to pay interest on its commercial debt, to compensate Kuwait or to finance reconstruction."

"We must help it," he said.

Saddam Visits Baghdad Ba'th Party Office

JN0606173591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1720 GMT 6 Jun 91

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Jun (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has visited the Baghdad office of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

At a meeting attended by Sa'di Mahdi Salih, Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command member and secretary of the Baghdad branch, and the Baghdad party office members, the president spoke about the party's ideological and political aspects and internal affairs. His excellency also discussed his assessment of the stage that witnessed the aggression of the imperialist-Atlantic-Zionist alliance. He praised the brave and heroic stand of our great people and their struggler party, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

INA Reports Jordanian Parliamentarians' Visit

Delegation Arrives 3 June

JN0306193191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1750 GMT 3 Jun 91

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Jun (INA)—Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat, speaker of the Jordanian House of Representatives, arrived in Baghdad this evening leading a parliamentary delegation to discuss joint action to get the economic blockade imposed on Iraq lifted.

In a statement to INA, the speaker said the Iraqi people's heroism and steadfastness in confronting the imperialist-Zionist onslaught was a source of pride for all Arabs and free people in the world.

He said the Jordanian delegation will discuss with the speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly and other officials the means to bolster the Arab position against the imperialist and colonialist conspiracies, and will view the results of the unjust aggression against the fraternal Iraqi people.

He added that the delegation will visit a number of governorates and industrial installations subjected to the treacherous aggression, to first-hand knowledge of the destruction and damage which they were subjected to by the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist aggression.

Economic Blockade Discussed

JN0306193591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1843 GMT 3 Jun 91

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Jun (INA)—National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih and 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat, speaker of the Jordanian House of Representatives, have discussed ways to bolster parliamentary ties between the two countries.

During a meeting today, they also discussed coordinated positions between the National Assembly and the Jordanian House of Representatives to serve joint Arab interests and issues, and to confront the conspiratorial schemes facing the Arab nation and the economic blockade imposed on Iraq.

Hammadi Meets House Speaker

JN0406135091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1306 GMT 4 Jun 91

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Jun (INA)—Prime Minister Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi has expressed Iraq's readiness to support any effort to enhance the unity of Arab ranks and to confront schemes to harm Arab sovereignty.

During a meeting today with Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat, speaker of the Jordanian House of Representatives, Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi praised the honorable brotherly stand of the government and people of fraternal Jordan alongside Iraq while confronting the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist aggression.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Taltif 'Arabiyat said that Iraq's jihad and honorable steadfastness against the aggression embodied the Arab masses' aspirations and faith in a bright Arab future.

During the meeting, they affirmed the importance of coordinating parliamentary relations between the two countries in a manner serving joint Arab interests and issues and the confrontation of the hostile schemes currently faced by the Arab nation.

Saddam Meets Jordanian Speaker

JN0506104491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 5 Jun 91

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Jun (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has saluted Jordan and its people, led by His Majesty King Husayn.

While receiving the Jordanian House of Representatives delegation headed by Speaker 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat, the president expressed the Iraqi people's pride in the stand of fraternal Jordan—king, government, and people—toward the unjust aggression on Iraq. He also expressed his appreciation for the great support and backing given by the Jordanian people and their representatives to the struggle of their Iraqi brothers for the sake of Iraq's dignity and the Arabs' glory.

The president thanked God for enabling us to take this stand and to meet with our brothers from faithful Arab Jordan to hear them voice their pride over the stand of their Iraqi brothers.

Mr. 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat conveyed His Majesty King Husayn's greetings to his brother President Saddam Husayn and the pride of the Jordanian people and their representatives in his excellency's historic leadership. He praised the Iraqi people's jihad in the battle of confrontation, aggression, and construction.

The meeting was attended by National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih.

Parliamentary Talks Held

JN0506140891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1202 GMT 5 Jun 91

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Jun (INA)—Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat, speaker of the Jordanian House of Representatives, has said that the American-Atlantic aggression against Iraq is tantamount to aggression against the entire Arab nation.

These remarks were made when Dr. 'Arabiyat led a Jordanian parliamentary delegation in talks that started here today with an Iraqi National Assembly delegation headed by Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih.

Dr. 'Arabiyat added: Jordan's support for Iraq during the sinful aggression embodied the common affiliation and the Jordanians' nobility of descent and also enhanced the position of proud Iraq while confronting, with the loftiness of noble Arabs, the conspiracy of aggression against the nation's dignity and potential.

Sa'di Mahdi Salih paid tribute to fraternal Jordan's noble Arab position and the noble positions of the Jordanian people that unmistakably reflected a common destiny and unity of conscience.

The talks dealt with the challenges to Iraq and the Arab nation in the aftermath of the American-Atlantic-Zionist aggression and the role of parliamentarians in both countries in confronting these challenges and foiling their schemes.

The two sides affirmed the importance of coordinating their efforts on the Arab and world scenes to break the economic blockade imposed on Iraq.

The two delegations discussed ways to enhance channels of communication among Arab parliamentarians and through them with the sons of the Arab nation in all of its countries to help close ranks and redouble efforts against all forms of fragmentation and sabotage to which the nation's enemies are dedicated.

Today, Dr. 'Arabiyat laid a wreath on the monument of the unknown soldier. Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat and his delegation read al-Fatihah [the opening chapter in the Koran] over the monument to invoke God's mercy on the souls of Iraqi and Arab martyrs.

Joint Statement Issued

JN0606050491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2053 GMT 5 Jun 91

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Jun (INA)—Iraq and Jordan have strongly condemned policies seeking to implement the imperialist-Zionist scheme of dividing the Arab homeland under the guise of security arrangements and the new world order, which is dominated by the United States and the parties to the imperialist-Zionist aggression.

A joint statement issued today following parliamentary talks between an Iraqi National Assembly delegation led by Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih and a Jordanian House of Representatives delegation led by House Speaker 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat declared that these policies have brought back the Arab homeland to the system of hateful colonialist alliances and coalitions that existed in the area in the fifties.

The statement noted that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's tours of the region are designed to guarantee U.S. interests, protect the Zionist entity, and place the entire region under colonialist hegemony so that the aggression and conspiracy against the Arab nation may be continued.

The Jordanian parliamentary delegation strongly denounced the criminal acts that harmed Iraq's national unity. It stated that these acts are aimed at maintaining the state of the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist aggression, humiliating Iraq and the Arab nation, and putting an end to the awakening pioneered by Iraq.

The two sides agreed that it was necessary to work seriously to bring together economic and social structures in the two countries. They also agreed that it was important to establish a common basis for the two countries through the unification of legislation and laws in order to achieve the Arab nation's noble objectives.

The two sides demanded that the unjust economic blockade imposed on Iraq be lifted, that Iraq's unity and sovereignty be maintained, and that any form of interference in Iraq's internal affairs be stopped.

In the field of parliamentary cooperation, the two sides agreed to exchange expertise and visits in the parliamentary, popular, and official fields. They agreed on the importance of concluding a protocol for understanding and coordination between the two assemblies and of enhancing bilateral relations between popular and professional organizations in the two fraternal countries.

The statement strongly condemned the repeated Zionist practices against the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied Arab territories. They asserted the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and affirmed the PLO's role, inasmuch as it is the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The joint statement said that the Iraqi National Assembly and the Jordanian House of Representatives supported the resolutions of the Arab Parliamentary Union's conferences in Algiers and Tripoli. They asserted the Arab nation's effective role in leading the world struggle against injustice and despotism.

'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat arrived in Baghdad yesterday, Tuesday, on a visit to consolidate relations between the Iraqi National Assembly and the Jordanian House of Representatives.

Barzani Optimistic About Autonomy Agreement

NC0606140691 Paris AFP in English 1349 GMT 6 Jun 91

[Text] Tehran, June 6 (AFP)—Iraqi Kurdish rebel chief Mas'ud Barzani voiced optimism Thursday that he could secure an autonomy agreement with Baghdad "within days," his party said Friday.

The Democratic Party of Kurdistan's (DPK) representative in Tehran quoted Mr. Barzani as saying he would "leave Baghdad to return to Kurdistan with good news."

The DPK leader told his political headquarters near the northern Iraqi city of Arbil that he expected to return "within days," Dr. Shawkat Bamarmi said.

Dr. Bamarmi also denied a British radio report that Mr. Barzani, who has been negotiating with the authorities in Baghdad for the past four weeks, had been arrested.

"The negotiations are going on in good conditions," he told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE. "Mr. Barzani was in contact late this morning with our political office" in Arbil.

At the start of the talks, Kurdish rebels had expressed confidence over an early agreement. But they have recently reported that the negotiations were bogged down over the size of an autonomous Kurdish region.

SAIRI Leader Says Uprising To Continue

NC0706052591 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 7 Jun 91

[Text] The head of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI], Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, has stressed that the Iraqi Muslims will continue their uprising. Speaking at a ceremony honoring Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified, he said: We will continue this uprising. Mr. al-Hakim pointed to the ever-growing opposition to the Ba'thist regime among all strata of the Iraqi people as evidence of the uprising. Ruling out any form of compromise, he said that the only path to the victory of the Muslim Iraqi nation is unity and jihad.

AL-THAWRAH Views Baker's Mideast Mission

JN1551059A Baghdad INA in Arabic 0808 GMT 15 May 91

[Text] Baghdad, 15 May (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has stressed that the objective of Baker's Middle East mission is to consecrate the Zionist entity, strengthen its pillars and infrastructures, and secure Arab recognition of Israel as a fait accompli.

In an article today under the headline, "Baker's Mission and the Logic of Settlement, the American Way," the paper says: What the United States has been seeking over the past four decades, and is still seeking, is to make Tel Aviv a genuine part of the region and to consecrate it as a Middle Eastern state, accepted and recognized by the Arabs.

The paper adds: Since the October 1973 war, the American role has been seeking to achieve the objectives of this plot to the end, without thinking that this time in particular will witness the signing of the accords of official Arab recognition of Israel.

The paper notes that America knows full well that such recognition is not difficult, and that it is dealing with an Arab nation that is ready to relinquish even the last fig leaf to satisfy Washington. What the United States is basically concerned about is convincing the Arab people that the settlement fait accompli is a just and important peace that will bring prosperity to the Arabs, end their wars, and help them avoid evils.

The paper goes on: Based on this, America proceeds from the fact that any settlement will not succeed or last if it is confronted by any popular rejection, and that it will vanish and end with the first popular revolt against any regime that agrees on it. Within this framework, the United States seeks to pave the psychological, ideological grounds for Israel's acceptance among the Arabs as a fait accompli and that there is no alternative to accepting and dealing with it. This is why Baker's efforts to achieve part of the more ambitious objectives are based on America's belief that after its aggression against Iraq, the road has become open to achieve these objectives.

The paper continues: What the United States is doing these days is relying on its plan concerning the Arab regimes that allied themselves with it against Iraq in order to carry out a violent psychological invasion of the awareness of the Arab masses, whose objectives go far beyond the consecration of the logic of settlement to that of specifying the nature of this settlement in a way that would secure Arab recognition of Israel, including the normalization of relations with Tel Aviv, provided that the enemy keep all the occupied Arab territories, and that any talk about the Palestinian people's rights or the Palestinian state will be over.

The paper adds: Baker's current mission focuses on entrenching these objectives in the short run, thus, making the possibility of signing any limited agreements irrelevant in the current American plan.

In conclusion, AL-THAWRAH says: Baker's current mission will face a real fiasco if it fails to entrench the logic of settlement in our masses' awareness, and if it finds that all that it has worked for with Tel Aviv against us was only a mirage that is rejected by the logic of history and the cultural awareness of the Arab nation.

Shamir's Response to Bush Called 'Positive'

TA0706054191 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 7 Jun 91

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Text] Sources at the Prime Minister's Office refused to issue any official comment last night on Prime Minister Shamir's letter to President Bush. Despite the reports spread by Shamir's bureau regarding his intention to wait for Foreign Minister David Levi before replying to the U.S. President, Shamir made do with holding two telephone conversations with the foreign minister in order to coordinate positions.

Political sources stress that the letter was formulated in positive terms. Israel detailed at length the numerous concessions it has already made to further the process and to convene the conference, as well as its intense desire to achieve peace. On the other hand, the letter asserts that it is the intransigence of the Arab states, especially Syria, that is holding up the process. In his missive, the prime minister exalts the advantages of direct negotiations and stresses the need for a quick transition from an opening session to direct talks.

It is almost unnecessary to say, however, that Israel has not issued a positive response to President Bush's request to show flexibility and remains adamantly opposed to the participation of a UN representative at the conference and to its continuation beyond the opening session. Israel, nevertheless, still agrees to hold a closing session, which would not be empowered to make any decisions, and to deposit the final agreements with the United Nations.

As to what comes now, after Shamir's reply: The initial reactions in the United States were furious. Now we have to wait and see what President Bush will do. Will he unilaterally dispatch invitations? Will he blame Israel for disrupting the process? Or will the United States make another, and perhaps last, effort to get the ball rolling?

Next Sunday, the cabinet will be asked to endorse the agreements Foreign Minister Levi reached in Europe regarding the inclusion of the EC in the conference. Minister Yuval Ne'eman, from the Tehiya faction, has already announced that he is opposed to them.

Shamir Said To Be Caught Between Levi, Sharon

TA0706080591 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Jun 91 p A1

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] In a recent meeting with several Knesset members, Prime Minister Shamir complained that he faces pressure on one side from Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon, who opposes any political compromise whatsoever, while on the other he must restrain Foreign Minister David Levi, who, in Shamir's view, is trying to rush ahead too fast on the peace process.

One of the participants in the meeting quoted the prime minister as saying that Levi's poor English made it difficult for the foreign minister to negotiate with U.S. representatives and that later he—Yitzhaq Shamir—had to correct the misunderstandings.

The source asserted that the prime minister said that he also supports the contention that "Jordan is Palestine," but he does not express this publicly so as not to offend the United States.

It was impossible to receive any comment yesterday from the Prime Minister's Office on what was said in the above described meeting.

Levi Returns From Europe, Holds News Conference

TA0606170591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1625 GMT 6 Jun 91

[News conference by Foreign Minister David Levi upon his return from Europe at Ben-Gurion Airport—live; broadcast in progress]

[Excerpts] [Levi] ....and in my presence, President Mitterrand gave instructions to the foreign minister and his team. I am returning satisfied with the meetings and the summations.

[Qol Yisra'el correspondent Dalya Ya'iri] Mr. Foreign Minister, we are being broadcast live. My question is: There are several versions, which have been denied, with regard to your remarks on Paris radio. The minimalist version says you have, at least, expressed the hope that a regional conference will be convened within a few weeks. What was this hope based on?

[Levi] I read these headlines on the plane. First of all, can't a man express a hope? I will always express hopes. Hope is the Israelis' slogan [reference to the national anthem], and peace is what we hope for. We hope that we will at last see the results of our efforts. Israel has made a major contribution to the promotion of the peace process. I will repeat what I said there: Outside the hope I expressed, I said that the Syrian refusal to embark on the path of peace is the obstacle. It must abandon its rejectionist position and stop placing additional obstacles and posing conditions. In reply to this, they said: If this is the situation, how long do you think this is going to take? I said: If everyone takes action to help the process along the path of peace, abandons rejectionist positions, and stops posing more conditions and creating obstacles, the issue will technically.... [changes thought] They said: How long? I said: I would like it to happen in three or four weeks. I cannot say exactly how long, but all the elements are pressing Syria to agree to embark on the path of peace and to abandon the conditions which delay the promotion of the peace process.

[Ya'iri] There are rumors of new Syrian flexibility.

[Levi] I cannot [passage indistinct]. There is a feeling that Syria is indeed becoming more flexible. Israel will be

able to confirm any such flexibility if it sees Syria join the process. We hope this will indeed happen.

[Jerusalem Israel Television political correspondent 'Imanu'el Halperin] Did you advise the prime minister to render the Israeli position more flexible in his reply to President Bush too?

[Levi] Israel has come a long way toward encouraging the peace process, as the secretary of state confirmed before his departure. Now, the other party must also prove its good will and intentions; it must show it also wants peace.

As for cooperation between the prime minister and myself, we hold talks and consultations. Even while I was out there, we maintained contact and consulted with each other. Israel did not pose obstacles. Israel expects the Arab side to prove that it is indeed moving forward toward peace.

[Ya'iri] Sir, the Prime Minister's Office is currently formulating a reply to President Bush's message—the message sent to all the region's leaders. Were you a party to the formulation of the reply, and can you tell us what it will say?

[Levi] I am unable to tell you anything at all. All I can say on this issue is that the prime minister and I held telephone conversations and consultations, and we will continue doing so.

[Ya'iri] Will a reply be prepared by the end of the week?

[Levi] I can neither confirm nor deny this. An answer will be prepared.

[Halperin] Is your colleague James Baker expected to arrive in Jerusalem or, alternately, will you meet him in Washington next week?

[Levi] Look, I am not planning a trip to Washington. I have read all kinds of reports; it is important not to take anything out of context, as things were in the first issue we discussed. Several events, as well as a convention of consul generals, are about to take place in New York in which we had planned to participate. Neither a journey to Washington nor meetings were planned, and I do not ask for meetings merely to say: Here, I have held some meetings.

[Halperin] But you are going.

[Levi] Of course I am going. If the administration thinks it has some message or news of a change, and it wants me to come.... [changes thought] I can tell you only this: All our talks were aimed at strengthening the coordination between Israel and the United States and to make a contribution to the promotion of the peace process. I hope all the effort we have invested will be worthwhile, and that it will happen as soon as possible. [passage omitted]

[Halperin] Regarding the economic agreements or understandings you have achieved with the EC, are they contingent on political progress?

[Levi] We know of major aid for development and for regional projects. We are talking here about many billions that the EC is willing to grant to help this region attain development and progress in order to lay the foundation for the preservation of peace, understanding, and cooperation between Israel and its neighbors. Naturally, if no partners are forthcoming, the EC will not agree to be a mere fund-funneling bank.

They will, however, be a party in the peace forum, where they will have no right to intervene between Israel and the Arab countries, no right to make decisions or to take action contravening rules to which the parties will have agreed in advance. This is the framework of our agreements, and I hope we will be able to tell them that the Israeli Government has approved these agreements.

[Ya'iri] Was it agreed, despite the reservations you have mentioned, to have an EC representative in the territories? In the past, there was vehement opposition to this.

[Levi] I discussed this with the prime minister, and we agreed that the basic idea, as it has been reported, to have someone come as a super-envoy, a kind of an ultra-ambassador, who would be located in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, and who would have an additional political mission—this idea is dangerous and it contravenes every aspect of humanitarian aid. Therefore, the emissary will carry an EC diplomatic passport, will spend some of his time here in Israel and some time in Brussels, will extend humanitarian aid, and his job will be a technical one. They have agreed to this. Mr. Matutes, who is the EC commissioner in charge of relations with Mediterranean countries, will come here and we will finalize the details with him. Since the Israeli positions on the humanitarian, rather than political nature on the emissary's task, have been met with understanding, I hope this will be done soon. An agreement to this effect has been achieved both orally and in writing.

[Ya'iri] Is this arrangement acceptable to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir?

[Levi] Do you imagine I could have discussed and finalized an issue without finalizing it first with the prime minister? I had done so before my departure.

Levi Accused of Withdrawing From Cabinet Stands

TA0606184891 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 6 Jun 91

[Text] In reaction to Minister David Levi's remarks tonight, Yuval Ne'eman, minister of energy and infrastructure, science and technology, said that Foreign Minister David Levi is withdrawing step-by-step from every position determined by the cabinet and the inner cabinet on the issue of political negotiations.

Minister Ne'eman added that none of the reported agreements have been presented to or accepted by the cabinet. Ne'eman intends to raise this issue at the cabinet meeting on Sunday.

Reports of Shamir-Husayn Meeting Denied

TA0506162891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 5 Jun 91

[Text] Israeli sources in Paris deny that Foreign Minister David Levi told EC chairman Jacques Poos that contacts are being made to arrange a meeting between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and King Husayn. The sources said that Jacques Poos could not have drawn this conclusion from anything he heard from Foreign Minister Levi.

Foreign Ministry Chief Discusses Peace Process

TA0606194391 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 6 Jun 91

[Interview with Foreign Ministry Director General Re'uven Merhav by Eli Nisan—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Excerpts] [Nisan] Mr. Merhav, Jerusalem is at present diligently formulating a letter of reply to President Bush. There are reports about a Syrian readiness to come to the peace conference. What is the situation just now?

[Merhav] The basic conditions for the convening of an opening conference are gradually ripening. So far, there have been several obstacles, the Syrian position having been and remaining the main obstacle. However, the unremitting pressure exerted by the United States and Europe is apparently bearing fruit. Nothing has been finalized, but we may witness significant progress very soon.

Still, no conference can be held without the active participation of Jordan. Jordan is the key for every future arrangement, and if someone deludes himself into thinking that anything can be done to promote the process without Jordan's very active participation, he is mistaken. Therefore, I am expressing my very ardent hope that this issue will be settled and that we will witness progress in this sphere, too. [passage omitted]

[Nisan] Mr. Merhav, what position will Israel take if invited to a Middle East peace conference by President Bush?

[Merhav] Since Israel is one country facing many, it needs—more than the others—to ensure that the basic conditions for the convening of a conference and for future talks are ripe, appropriate, correct, prudent, and sound. Why? Because for each of the other countries, the issue of the conference and of the entire process is important, but Israel is the only one for which this issue is a matter of life or death and which has braved the situation single-handedly for dozens of years. Therefore, Israel must be a hundred times more cautious. It must ensure that every detail is formulated correctly and that no details in the opening event or the ensuing meetings cause it to make an irreversible and fatal mistake. [passage omitted]

[Nisan] Mr. Merhav, what does Israel expect to receive from Europe in return for its consent to include it in the peace process?

[Merhav] There is no thought of immediate material return. We know that Europe has very profound links with the Mediterranean region, which is the cradle of European civilization. Europeans have extensive and entrenched ecological, economical, political, and cultural interests in the region. [passage omitted]

[Nisan] Israel has agreed to the appointment of a European envoy who will deal with the territories. What will his status be?

[Merhav] In our talks with the Europeans, we referred to a fable, the moral of which is that if you want to eat from an orchard, you cannot afford to quarrel with the watchman. We told them: You said you want to give humanitarian and financial assistance to the territories? Go ahead, but do so in coordination with us and in accordance with international law. We are in charge of order and security in the occupied territories—in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza—and we do not deem it right for the Europeans to wrap their aid under political cover; we will not stand for political designs behind altruistic, humanitarian motives. We would like to define the parameters. Any aid will be welcome, provided it is coordinated with us. [passage omitted]

[Nisan] This week, Jerusalem was furious with the Egyptian leadership and press, both of which did nothing to help normalize relations. Where are the Israeli-Egyptian relations headed, Mr. Director General?

[Merhav] Since Israel and Egypt have a strategic pact, the link with Egypt is the cornerstone of every future process in the Middle East. We are glad this is the situation. We paid a steep price for peace with Egypt, and we are happy it exists.

At the same time, there have been certain acts, in particular on the part of the Egyptian press which, as we know, is affiliated with the regime, in which Israeli leaders were publicly insulted; in which the Israelis' sincere desire to live in peace was doubted; in which the establishment's official and semi-official organs fiercely attacked Israeli figures. We take a grave view of these acts. We believe the Egyptian role is to create a more moderate atmosphere, to promote the dialogue with us, and to maintain proper continuing contacts with Israeli leaders of all streams. We believe Egypt bears serious responsibility in this respect. We protest all the violations in this sphere.

[Nisan] We have protested similar incidents throughout the past 11 years.

[Merhav] I do not think we can ignore them. We have to explain the situation to the Egyptians in very plain

words, albeit in a civilized way, through the bilateral channels we had jointly created: our embassy in Cairo, their embassy here, and a variety of continuing contacts. [passage omitted]

[Nisan] Mr. Merhav, can the peace agreement between Israel and Egypt, which is based on the principle of peace for territories, serve as model for the territories in the future peace agreements?

[Merhav] First of all, the Egyptian model was based on the principle of a peace for peace. The Egyptians have finally understood this, after many years. [passage omitted]

Egypt cannot be compared to Eretz Yisra'el; the picture here is entirely different. We think that in the framework of the historic space, the relationship between Israel and its eastern neighbor, including the territories, can be resolved in a desirable and appropriate manner. Our relations with the Palestinians and the Jordanians can be settled in a Camp David fashion. Therefore, I think the comparison has no room here. These are entirely different cases.

[Nisan] Do you mean that the Sinai is neither the West Bank nor the Golan Heights?

[Merhav] Absolutely. As for the Golan Heights, I would like to note the following: A whole generation of Israelis has grown up oblivious to the fact that everything below the Golan Heights used to be in constant danger for dozens of years. Whole generations grew up in air raid shelters. We tend to forget the picture of tens of thousands of people living within the range of gunfire, unable to live a normal life.

I do not think that, at this stage of contacts, there is anything at all to discuss on this issue. I think that, in its present configuration, the Golan Heights represents a vital guarantee for Israel's security. I believe that Syria, which is pursuing its military buildup and purchasing missile technology, and which has been speaking of strategic parity with Israel, is a separate case to be discussed in due time. I suggest we do not address this issue at present. For now, let us address the immediate issues which are immediately connected with our security here and now. [passage omitted]

Court Approves Couple's Extradition to U.S.

TA0706074391 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0730 GMT 7 Jun 91

[Text] The Jerusalem District Court has just approved the extradition of Robert and Rahel Manning, a couple from Qiryat Arba', to the United States. There they are to be charged with the murder of a secretary in an American computer firm. The extradition process still needs the authorization of the Justice Minister. Our justice affairs correspondent 'Ido Shargil reports that after the court's decision was announced, the couple broke out in tears, and Robert Manning shouted at the prosecuting attorney that this meant the death sentence for him.

U.S. Linkage of Aid to 'Flexibility' Feared

TA0406151491 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 4 Jun 91 p A2

[Report by Avino'am Bar-Yosef]

[Text] Germany has conditioned its aid for immigrant absorption on Israel's showing political flexibility. Political circles in Jerusalem have been concerned by this position of Bonn's, mainly because of the coordination discussions Chancellor Helmut Kohl held last week in Washington with President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker.

Recent reports reaching Jerusalem indicate that in his conversations in Washington, Chancellor Kohl said that the request for aid Israel has presented is excessive, and that aid should be made conditional on Israel's willingness to advance in the political process according to guidelines the United States determines.

The remarks have caused great concern in Israel's Embassy in Bonn, because so far Germany has been careful to avoid linking economic aid for Israel with political issues of this kind. It is stressed in Jerusalem that Germany used to hold a political dialogue with Israel only through the EC and not on the bilateral level, because the German Government maintains that Germany has no right to intervene in issues affecting Israel's existence.

The fear that the policy has changed also indicates that in the future Washington will try to use economic aid to pressure Israel.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said yesterday that he believes the political process is not stuck, but it should be remembered that in negotiations of the kind the United States is trying to promote in the Middle East, there are no shortcuts because the issues are very complex.

Egyptian Invitation to MK's Seen as Intervention

TA0706100991 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 7 Jun 91 p 10

[Report by Smadar Peri]

[Text] The matter of the letters Foreign Minister David Levi sent to Cairo is becoming an increasingly more complex affair.

Yesterday, it became known for the first time that in addition to the personal letter Minister Levi sent to Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al Majid to mark his appointment to the post of secretary general of the Arab League, which was returned unopened to Jerusalem, Levi sent another letter

congratulating his new counterpart in Cairo, 'Amr Muhammad Musa, upon his appointment to the post of Egyptian foreign minister.

In his letter, Levi expresses his hope for cooperation and the strengthening of Israeli-Egyptian relations and hints that he is interested in meeting with the Egyptian minister.

The Egyptian foreign minister has still not replied to Levi's missive. Yesterday, however, it was learned that contrary to expectations in Jerusalem, Cairo has decided to invite a delegation of seven Alignment officials on an official visit.

The delegation, which includes Knesset members [MK's] Yosi Beilin, Hagay Merom, Hayim Ramon, Avraham Burg, 'Amir Peretz, Nawaf Musaliha, and Nisim Zvili, will leave for Cairo in the middle of next week for meetings with three senior Egyptian officials: Dr. Butrus Ghali, the deputy prime minister for foreign liaison; Dr. Usamah al-Baz, adviser to President Mubarak; and the new Egyptian foreign minister, 'Amr Muhammad Musa.

Sources in Jerusalem yesterday evening reacted to the invitation with mixed feelings. "On the one hand, it is good for MK's to visit Cairo and hold a dialogue. It is inconceivable, however, that the only ones invited are MK's with whom the Egyptian establishment feels comfortable," explained a senior Foreign Ministry official.

Another senior official in Jerusalem said that "it is hard to ignore the blatant Egyptian intervention in our internal politics. The three officials who will host the Alignment delegation in Cairo represent the Egyptian establishment, which prefers to flagrantly ignore the ruling party in Israel."

The senior official told YEDI'OT AHARONOT that he informed the members of the delegation invited to Cairo of the "Egyptian game," and the Alignment officials responded by making it clear that "when in Egypt, they intended to emphasize the importance of conducting a dialogue with the Likud as well and not just with them."

MK Ramon said yesterday that he sees no problem in the trip to Egypt, asking: "If the Egyptians prefer to invite us, why should we not go?"

Paper Reports 'Progress' in Saudi-PLO Contacts

TA3105141691 Jerusalem AL-TALI'AH in Arabic 30 May 91 pp 1, 11

[Text] Amman—Reliable sources in the PLO have affirmed that contacts are under way between the PLO and the Saudi leadership to coordinate positions on the U.S. moves and to resolve the differences stemming from the Gulf crisis. The sources point out that progress has been made in these contacts and that it is likely the PLO delegation that visited Damascus and Amman will leave for Riyadh soon. The source stressed that the upcoming consultations between the two sides will take place on the same basis as those held in Damascus and Amman.

PRC Scientific Delegation Conducts Visit

Delegates Arrive 2 June

TA0206184191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 2 Jun 91

[Text] A high-level Chinese scientific delegation has arrived in Israel. It is the first visit of this kind. The delegation is headed by the vice president of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. The delegation will meet with members of the Israel National Academy of Sciences in order to advance scientific cooperation between the two countries. Last year, Israel opened a scientific office in Beijing.

Scientists Sign Agreement

TA0506054791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 5 Jun 91

[Excerpts] Heads of the Israeli and Chinese Academies of Sciences signed an agreement on scientific cooperation yesterday in Jerusalem. It is the first official agreement between the two countries. The head of the Israeli Academy, Prof Yehoshu'a Jortner, told Qol Yisra'el China has great potential in this sphere. [passage omitted]

The director general of the Foreign Ministry, Re'uven Merhav, has expressed the hope relations between Israel and China will be normalized within a few years. Merhav made the comment to a visiting delegation of Chinese scientists.

Arens Says Intifadah Dying, 'Leading Nowhere'

TA0606052091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 6 Jun 91

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens says the intifadah is dying. Speaking to a group of academics in Jerusalem, the minister said the use of live fire in the territories over the last few days is a sign of despair among intifadah activists, who realize their struggle is leading nowhere. The minister also said talks held with Palestinians have revealed they are tired of the intifadah.

Palestinians Call for Reevaluation of Intifadah

TA0706073791 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 6 Jun 91

[Text] Today's edition of the Arab daily AL-FAJR, which appears in East Jerusalem, carries declarations by the leaders of the three main PLO factions in the territories, calling for a reevaluation of the intifadah. Faysal al-Husayni says that the Palestinian infrastructure must be rebuilt to absorb the financial aid coming from Europe. Zuhayra Kamal, from the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, asserts the need to bravely confront the shortcomings of the intifadah, especially the strike forces' takeover of the streets. On the other hand, Dr. Riyad al-Maliki, from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, points out negative

phenomena and angry reactions among the public in light of the increasing signs of malaise in the intifadah. Our Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari reports:

Both the defense establishment and the Palestinian leadership in the territories agree that the intifadah is approaching a most important watershed. This is indicated by the energetic campaign, which reached a new peak today, being conducted by Faysal al-Husayni and his colleagues to spur a large group of young local Fatah leaders into changing the format of the uprising and especially curtailing its more violent aspects. Al-Husayni, for example, has come out against focusing on the military side of the uprising at the expense of its other facets. The daily newspaper AL-FAJR constitutes the main venue for expounding these positions, and what is important is the fact that senior activists of the quasi-secret Fatah organization who have been recently released from lengthy prison terms are their proponents.

'Adnan Damiri, from Tulkarm, who was one of the leaders of the detainees at the Qezi'ot detention center, now explicitly writes about the fear of the masked men—the genie that has escaped from the bottle—and on the need to bravely stand up to them. Zuhayr al-Dib'i, a senior Fatah activist from Nabulus, writes that during his stay in prison he learned that 60 percent of those murdered as collaborators were not guilty of the crimes attributed to them.

An education campaign is also under way, through conventions and propaganda, in a bid to restore some order to the school system and to prevent thugs from disrupting the exams. The shops are being allowed to remain open for more hours, and demands to reduce the number of strike days have been sent to the PLO in Tunis. One of the papers in the territories ironically describes the Palestinians today as people who sleep through the afternoons, because of the strikes, instead of worrying about their future. This trend is gathering momentum and winning public support. Al-Husayni himself told us tonight that he believes that this trend will soon yield practical results.

It should be noted that these developments are also linked to the public position taken by this group of leaders in support of an interim accord, based on a wide degree of autonomy and elections, with negotiations then being entrusted to a delegation from the territories. They also call for greater representation and influence for the residents of the territories in the PLO institutions. It appears that these developments have been fomented not only by the chances for a political process, but also by the growing anxiety arising from the violent clashes that took place recently in Nabulus and in Gaza's al-Shaja'iyah neighborhood between Fatah and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists, the increasing number of murders of collaborators, and the steep rise in robberies and burglaries in towns in the territories.

What the local Palestinian leaders are demanding now is that Yasir 'Arafat allow them to change the pattern of the struggle against Israel, while diverting the emphasis from crazed violence to the establishment of Palestinian civil institutions. The argument has just begun.

Radio Announces List of Appointed Deputies

NC0606180391 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 6 Jun 91

[Text] Following a cabinet meeting held today, ministerial sources provided us with the approved list of the appointed deputies. They are: Walid Junblatt, Marwan Hamadah, Fu'ad al-Sa'd, John 'Ubayd, Roy al-Hirawi, 'Abd-al-Rahim Murad, Faysal al-Dawud, Elie al-Farzali, 'Ali Hamad Ja'far, Muhammad Baydun, Nabih Birri, 'Abdallah al-Amin, Akram Shuhayyib, Muhammad 'Ali al-Mays, Michel al-Murr, Talal Arslan, Anwar al-Khalil, Muhsin Dallul, Shahi Barsumian, Ayman Shuqayr, 'Umar Karami, 'Umar Musayki, Wajih al-Ba'rini, 'Ali 'Id, 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Abd-al-Rahman, Hamad al-Samad, Ilyas Saba, Salim Sa'adah, Elie Hubayqah, Mahmud Abu-Hamdan, 'Adil Saqr, George Kassab, Faris Buwayz, Antoine Shadir, Sulayman Tony Franjiyah, Na'ilah Mu'awwad, Istifan al-Duwayhi, Nasib Lahhud, Munir al-Hajj, and Muhammad Jarudi.

Information Minister Reviews Cabinet Meeting

NC0506174691 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 5 Jun 91

[Statement by Information Minister Albert Mansur, followed by answer to question by unidentified correspondent, after a cabinet meeting at the temporary presidential heaquarters in Beirut on 5 June—recorded]

[Excerpts] At the beginning of the meeting, his excellency the president reviewed the Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon and briefed the cabinet on the contacts with the Security Council, the complaint Lebanon has submitted to the Security Council, and the contacts that are now taking place in an attempt to call a meeting of the Security Council.

On this occasion, their excellencies the president and the prime minister called on the cabinet to pursue executive steps to deploy the army in specified areas and on specified dates, especially in southern Lebanon. They also called for the consolidation of ranks to confront all the Israeli enemy's attempts. [passage omitted]

The cabinet was informed of the Libyan military grant and decided to accept it. It was also notified of another Libyan grant of $971,000 to the Beirut municipality, and of an Italian grant for $3.5 million in of equipment for the Telecommunications Ministry to repair the telephone exchanges. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] According to reports from Washington this morning, Washington advised the Lebanese Government not to ask the Security Council to meet to deal with the situation in the south. Are these reports true?

[Mansur] First, we have not been informed of these reports. Second, the Lebanese Foreign Ministry and our ambassador at the United Nations are still holding contacts on this subject and on the possibility of asking the Security Council to meet.

Buwayz Calls for UN Resolution's Implementation

NC0406122691 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 4 Jun 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has said that by aggravating the situation in the south, Israel is trying to make it impossible to convene a peace conference. He said Israel is is using southern Lebanon as a hostage for its political maneuvers.

In a radio interview on the ninth anniversary of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, Buwayz affirmed that the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425 will provide definite credibility to a peace conference, give the United States the moral stock to go ahead with the conference, and improve Israel's image.

The foreign minister said that Lebanon rejects the idea of linking the implementation of Resolution 425 with any other consideration. Lebanon's participation in any peace conference will be under the slogan of solving Arab and Palestinian issues, particularly the Palestinian one. He affirmed that the more we progress toward internal unity, a unified national decision, and the establishment of a strong state, the greater the chances and enthusiasm of Lebanon's friends abroad to implement this resolution.

Buwayz said that Israel has an historic opportunity today to close the chapter of aggression and emerge from its isolation after its dealing with Arab issues and Lebanon has proved a great failure.

Buwayz Told Israeli Action 'Will Be Limited'

NC0606132091 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 6 Jun 91

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz and George Hawi, Lebanese Communist Party secretary general, today discussed the Israeli attacks and parliamentary appointments. Following the meeting, Hawi said: We discussed the Israeli attacks and the grave consequences in light Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's statement that the attacks are being carried out to establish Greater Israel. Viewed in this light, the attacks have grave implications for Lebanon's independence and political institutions.

Hawi added: Minister Buwayz said that he received assurances that Israeli action will be limited in scope and that international pressures are being exerted on them. For our part, we advise vigilance and recommend the use of maximum force in the face of these Israeli aggressions.

Hawi said: We discussed parliamentary appointments on the basis that all parties, particularly those who have taken up arms such as our party, should be included in the Chamber of Deputies. This will be a step toward replacing the military conflict with the political and democratic conflict. Everyone has the right to participate in the political game and we should not be deprived of that right. [passage omitted]

Hizballah Links Hostages, Lebanese Detainees

NC0606123591 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 6 Jun 91

[Text] Hizballah Secretary General 'Abbas al-Musawi has said that Israel will not withdraw from Lebanon because it wants more land and water. He said Israel plans to settle Jews in the occupied border strip.

At a news conference today, al-Musawi said that the release of the Western hostages in Lebanon is linked to the release of the Lebanese detained by Israel. Al-Musawi said that America is using the hostages as a political card to tarnish the image of Muslims and Arabs.

Al-Musawi warned against the U.S. attempts to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict, noting that America wants to exploit the current situation in which the Arabs are weak and the Zionist entity has increasing human and militry resources at its disposal.

Al-Musawi said that the Lebanese-Syrian agreement, Palestinian-Syrian reconciliation, and Iranian support are all factors that work against U.S. hegemony and conditions.

DFLP's Hawatimah Says Israeli Attack Expected

NC0606164291 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 6 Jun 91

[Text] Nayif Hawatimah, leader of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], has said that the front has information proving that Israel is preparing for a widescale attack against south Lebanon. In an interview with REUTER in his office in Damascus, Hawatimah called on the international community to intervene to put an end to the Israeli schemes.

Hawatimah said the goals of the Israeli raids and the expected attack is to obstruct the Middle East peace efforts, prevent the Lebanese Government from imposing its sovereignty over all Lebanese territory, and abort the Syrian-Lebanese cooperation treaty.

DFLP Announces Attack on Israeli Position

NC0606161591 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 6 Jun 91

[Text] In the south, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] has announced that its fighters attacked an Israeli position in the western sector of the occupied area. The DFLP said that an Israeli platoon and several tanks were in position at the time of the attack and added that many of the Israeli enemy personnel were either killed or wounded in the operation.

Mock Israeli Raids, Clashes Reported in South

NC0606112291 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 6 Jun 91

[Text] Israeli warplanes staged mock raids on the south and flew at low altitude over the Sidon's camps today during the funeral for Palestinian martyrs who fell in yesterday's air raids.

Meanwhile, clashes involving machine guns and rockets broke out today between agent Lahd's militiamen and the Popular Liberation Army's Forces of Martyr Ma'ruf Sa'd along the Kafr Falus, Lib'a, and 'Ayn al-Mir combat lines.

In another development, last night a resistance group ambushed an Israeli patrol in the Kafr Kila area, 3 km from the border. The two groups clashed for one hour with machine guns and armor-piercing rockets. In occupied Jerusalem, Israeli military sources admitted that revolutionaries fired antitank rockets at an occupation army position near Qal'at al-Shaqif near al-Nabatiyah. The Israeli sources said that two Israeli soldiers were wounded and were transported by a helicopter to the Ramban hospital in Haifa.

Druze Radio Reports Continued Israeli Shelling

NC0706092891 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 7 Jun 91

[Text] Israel is continuing its aggression against the south. Israeli forces shelled the hills surrounding the townships of Qilya, Dallafah, and Libbaya and the Nahr al-Litani area this morning. The bombardment was accompanied by overflights by two Israeli helicopters.

Israeli combat aircraft flew over Sidon and the nearby camps at low altitude at about 1130 today, breaking the sound barrier several times.

Meanwhile, the Martyr Ma'ruf Sa'd Forces of the Popular Liberation Army [PLA] and the Palestinian factions remain on guard in view of the possibility of more air raids.

Skirmishes with machine guns and rockets are taking place between the PLA and agent Lahd's militia on the Kafr Falus, Lib'a, and 'Ayn al-Mir lines.

Al-Shar' Receives Message From Saudi Counterpart

JN0206204291 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 2 Jun 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this evening received Mr. 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Mansuri, under secretary for political affairs of the Foreign Ministry of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The meeting was attended by Yusuf Shakkur, assistant foreign minister, and the Saudi ambassador in Damascus.

Mr. al-Mansuri handed a message to the foreign minister from Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

They discussed the latest developments in the region and bilateral relations.

Mr. 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Mansuri arrived in Damascus this evening. He was received at Damascus International Airport by Mr. Yusuf Shakkur, assistant foreign minister; the assistant of the chief of protocol at the Foreign Ministry; and the Saudi ambassador in Damascus.

Al-Zu'bi Meets Southern Lebanon Council Chairman

JN0506151391 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 5 Jun 91

[Text] Damascus—Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received this morning Dr. Hasan Yusuf, chairman of the Southern Lebanon Council, accompanied by Nasir Qandil, representative of the Syrian general construction company in Lebanon. The meeting was attended by Construction and Building Minister Dr. Marwan Farra. Talks centered on the historic step taken by concluding the treaty of brotherhood, cooperation, and coordination between Lebanon and Syria, which expresses the will of the people in the two fraternal countries.

The chairman of the Southern Lebanon Council stressed the important construction role played by the Syrian general construction company in Lebanon in general and in the south in particular. Emphasis was also laid on the great ability of the two countries to cooperate in economic, technical, and scientific areas in achieving development and progress in both countries. Talks also touched on Syrian-Lebanese cooperation in other fields.

Al-Zu'bi Confers With Soviet on Water Projects

JN0506165991 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 5 Jun 91

[Tex] At 1100 today, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received Zalikhanov, head of the water departments compound in the Soviet Union [title as heard], and members his delegation. The meeting was attended by Irrigation Minister 'Abd-al-Rahman Madani. Talks centered on the close relations between Syria and the Soviet Union and on the close cooperation between them in various areas, particularly in dam projects and water networks, which are now being studied.

The two sides also discussed ways of developing cooperation between Syrian and Soviet corporations. Zalikhanov praised the great agricultural and water projects in Syria. The two sides also stressed the need to promote cooperation between Syria and the Soviet Union in the interest of the two friendly countries.

PRC's Qiao Shi Backs International Conference

JN0106105691 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0725 GMT 1 Jun 91

[Text] Damascus, 1 Jun (SANA)—Mr. Qiao Shi, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, has affirmed the PRC's stand supporting Syria's just struggle. He renewed the PRC's appreciation for the great efforts Syria is exerting under President Hafiz al-Asad's leadership on the Arab and international levels to establish peace in the region.

Mr. Qiao Shi said in an interview with the newspaper TISHRIN published today that China, as a member of the United Nations, will exert efforts to push the peace process forward and believes it is necessary to realize the following:

1. Solving the Middle East question as soon as possible in a just and comprehensive manner.

2. Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and guaranteeing the rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

3. Convening an international peace conference under the auspices of the United Nations, with the presence of the five permanent members of the Security Council, and the participation of all the parties concerned based on Resolutions 242 and 338 to end the problem in the region.

Mr. Qiao Shi affirmed the importance of his meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad and his talks with Syrian officials, noting the distinguished bilateral relations between China and Syria and affirming the need to strengthen and develop them in various fields.

He said: During our visit, we sensed the honest and friendly feelings which Syria has for the people and leadership of China. During this visit, we have learned about the situationin Syria and the social development and great economic achievements that have been realized under the leadership of President al-Asad.

Mr. Qiao Shi reiterated that his country is proceeding down the road of socialism while applying economic reconstruction in accordance with progressive standards that serve the development plans and improve the standard of living.

Bangladesh

Khaleda Zia To Begin China Visit 18 Jun

BK0606132891 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh External Service in English 1230 GMT 6 Jun 91

[Text] Prime Minister of Bangladesh Begum Khaleda Zia is to pay an official goodwill visit to China on the 18th of this month. The three-day visit will take place at the invitation of Premier Li Peng. During the visit, the prime minister will hold talks with her Chinese counterpart on cooperation between the two countries in different fields. Begum Zia is expected to meet President Yang Shangkun and Communist Party Secretary General Jiang Zemin.

Zia To Fight Conspiracies To Topple Government

BK0606164491 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 6 Jun 91

[Text] Prime Minister Khaleda Zia says her party was voted to power by the people and any conspiracy to topple her democratically elected government will be foiled with the cooperation of the people. She was addressing a big public meeting in the capital this afternoon.

Begum Khaleda Zia said her government would not tolerate any violence and terrorism aimed at hindering the democratic process and peace in society. Some quarters, she said, are unhappy to witness the success of the BNP [Bangladesh Nationalist Party] government during the last few months and are active to foil the government's efforts to consolidate democracy. The BNP government cannot be removed by creating terrorism and indiscipline in the educational campuses and damaging vehicles on the street. She said they will protect democracy which was restored after a great sacrifice and toppling of an autocratic government at the cost of their blood. Her party wants to establish a democracy in which governments may change, but not a democratic set up.

The prime minister said she did not join politics to go to power, but to bring back democracy in the country. Begum Zia said she would never leave the people. If necessary, she said, she can shed her blood for protecting democracy.

Begum Zia asked the students to devote themselves to study, maintain peace and discipline in the educational campuses.

Education Minister Professor Badruddoja Chowdhury; Party Secretary General and Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Minister Abdus Salam Talukder; Flood Control and Water Resources Minister Majidul Haq; Communications Minister Oli Ahmed; State Minister Khondaker Mosharraf Hossain; and some MP's also spoke on the occasion.

Our representative says thousands of people from all walks of life attended the meeting braving the inclement weather and rains.

India

Shekhar Denies Gold Sale To Repay Debts

BK0706094691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 7 Jun 91

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, today denied reports that his government had sold gold to repay foreign debts. Speaking at a series of public meetings in Bihar, Mr. Chandra Shekhar said all that his government has done is to pledge gold to repay foreign debts. He said this had become necessary to repair the tarnished image of the country. Mr. Chandra Shekhar accused the previous V.P. Singh government of making the country bankrupt through its wrong policies of taking loans and making no effort to repay them.

BJP Leader on Gold Lease

BK0706035691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0240 GMT 7 Jun 91

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leader, Mr. Vajpayee, has said that the Chandra Shekhar government cannot be blamed for the situation leading to the leasing of 20 tons of gold to meet the international obligations in foreign exchange. Reacting to the government's decision, Mr. Vajpayee said in Hyderabad yesterday that it shows the seriousness of the prevailing financial situation in the country.

Use of Gold Decried

BK0506161691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 5 Jun 91

[Text] The Congress-I and the Janata Dal have criticized the decision by the government to raise foreign exchange by using 20 tons of confiscated gold. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi today, the Congress-I spokesman, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, described it as an irresponsible act by a caretaker government. He said some loan assistance should have been negotiated to tide over the crisis.

The Janata Dal spokesman, Mr. Jaipal Reddy, told newsmen that though the balance of payments position is bad, the situation does not warrant such immediate action by a caretaker government. He said the matter should have been left to the new government. He urged the president to intervene.

The official spokesman, however, clarified that the government has leased 20 tons of gold out of its confiscated stocks to the State Bank of India for a period of six months for raising foreign exchange to meet international obligations. The bank entered into a commercial transaction with a repurchase option at the selling rates. The net foreign exchange augmentation from this transaction is expected to be about 400 crore rupees. The

spokesman said as the gold will be returned at the end of the lease period, there will be no depletion of stocks on a permanent basis.

Shekhar Alleges Foreign Plot Against Nation

BK0606151491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 6 Jun 91

[Text] The Samajwadi Janata Party leader, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, has said that a serious conspiracy is being master-minded by desperate elements with the backing of foreign powers to break the country. Addressing a series of public meetings in Balia area in Uttar Pradesh today, Mr. Chandra Shekhar said that this challenge calls for a united and determined response by the people. He said those who are arousing communal and caste passions are doing the biggest disservice to the nation.

Devi Lal Supports Congress-I Government

BK0606043291 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 5 Jun 91

[Text] The Samajwadi Janata Party president, Mr. Devi Lal, has said that his party would support the Congress-I when the question of forming the government at the center came up after the elections. Talking to newsmen in Gulbarga in Karnataka today, he said he was personally in favor of abrogating the antidefection act.

First Polling Phase in Assam; Situation Peaceful

BK0606125291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 6 Jun 91

[Text] In Assam, the first phase of polling for seven Lok Sabha and 57 state assembly constituencies ended peacefully at 1700 this evening. Moderate to heavy polling was reported from almost all the constituencies. According to the Election Commission the average voter turnout in the state was above 50 percent. Election for the Badarpur assembly constituency in Karimganj District was countermanded following the death of a candidate this morning. Polling for the Karimganj Lok Sabha seat was, however, held today.

Meanwhile, campaigning for Saturday's [8 June] elections for the remaining seven Lok Sabha and 67 assembly seats in the state ended at 1700 this evening. There are 90 candidates in the fray for the Lok Sabha and 956 for the assembly seats. An independent candidate has already been declared elected unopposed from the Kokhrajar West assembly constituency.

Election Commission's Decisions Criticized

BK0606151091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 6 Jun 91

[Text] The Janata Dal, BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] and the Left parties have criticized the chief election commissioner, Mr. T.N. Seshan's statement that countermanding of elections in more seats is not ruled out. The Janata Dal spokesman, Mr. Jaipal Reddy, said in New Delhi today that the election process should have been over last month itself, but for Mr. Rajiv Gandhi's assassination. He said after so much delay any move to countermand elections in any constituency will be unconstitutional and a serious threat to the conduct of the elections. He said the Election Commission has to give reasons for every action. Mr. Reddy, who met Mr. Seshan today, criticized the order on repolling in some booths in Muzaffarpur constituency. He said the action was not based on the recommendation of the chief electoral officer.

The BJP spokesman, Mr. J.P. Mathur, said that Mr. Seshan is trying to take advantage of the delay in the counting of votes.

The CPI [Communist Party of India] said the electoral process will be distorted if elections are countermanded in some constituencies several days after polling.

The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] criticized the Election Commission's decision to order repoll in 34 booths in Howrah Lok Sabha constituency. In a memorandum to the chief election commissioner, the CPI-M, the CPI, the RSP [Revolutionary Socialist Party], and Forward Bloc described the decision as arbitrary.

The Election Commission says possibilities of countermanding of polls and repolling in some constituencies are now confined to Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Elaborating yesterday's indications on the subject, the chief election commissioner, Mr. T.N. Seshan, ruled out countermanding or repoll in any other state. The final decision regarding Uttar Pradesh and Bihar will be taken by tomorrow.

Iran

Khamene'i Message on Anniversary of Imam's Death

LD0306142191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 3 Jun 91

[Message to Iranian people from Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic Revolution, on the second anniversary of the death of Imam Khomeyni]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted] Once again, 4 June has arrived, a day of immense grief for the world of Islam, a day when Iran started its day without the sun, a day when the revolution no longer heard the pulse of that beating heart. [passage omitted]

Two years after that bitter incident, we can witness the presence of the great imam, shining bright like the sun, supervising and witnessing all the scenes of the revolution. This fills our hearts and souls with hope and confidence although on that day sorrow grew from the ground and poured down from the skies. It made life bitter and hearts full of sorrow. Thank God that the greedy plots of the enemies who wanted to make the

country fall into chaos, make the revolution reach a dead end, and see the Iranian people bewildered after the imam passed away were foiled. [passage omitted]

Now, on the eve of the bitter experience of 4 June this sweet truth is staring us in the face: If the late imam is not here physically, his thoughts, path, and eternal will are next to us. He lives on. No power in the world can take away this presence and chill our lives. No power in the world can separate the Islamic Republic of Iran from its father, founder, and great teacher.

I would like to take this opportunity to talk about a number of points. First, the enemies who could not—and with God's help they shall never be able to—separate Islamic Iran from the late imam and his political line of thinking are trying to claim in their poisonous propaganda that such a thing has happened and that the Islamic Republic has separated from its source, root, and foundations. They repeat these false utterances during those specific occasions with yet more fanfare from the enemies' mouthpieces when the Islamic Republic has achieved success or recognition either on the international or domestic scenes.

Their objective from this venemous outburst is to control the public opinion of the uprisen and revolutionary Muslims in Islamic countries. With the awakening and hope through the victory and steadfastness of Islamic Iran, the work of arrogance's lackies in many of these countries has now become very difficult. Arrogance and its puppet propaganda network have tried to turn the hope and optimism of the uprisen Muslims into dispair and pessimism. For them, there is nothing better or more effective than to try to portray the Islamic vanguard, and progressive revolution of the people of Iran as weak and defeated and that Islamic Iran has been forced to deviate from the clear line of imam Khomeyni, may his dust be sanctified, and true Mohammadan Islam, may the peace and benedictions of God be upon him and his companions, in the face of difficulties and onslaughts from the enemy.

I announce firmly that this trick by arrogance is in itself a strong reason for its failure to confront the Islamic Revolution of Iran and a clear reason to continue this holy path in the birthplace of the neo-Islamic system. [passage omitted]

Another point is that, in recent months and in keeping with that same policy of which I was speaking, the issue of so-called ties between the Islamic Republic of Iran and western countries raised its head in the chaotic marketplace of rumors and newsmongering run by the news imperialism of arrogance. The issue has been subjected to discussions, debates, claims and a range of opinions. It is clear that the propaganda loudspeakers, from various different corners but all motivated by the confrontation of the Islamic Republic of Iran and bringing under question this divine and popular system and inflicting a blow to its prestige, have exploited the issue.

With reliance on the intelligence and analytical skills which, God be praised, has been bestowed on our people as a blessing of the revolution, I consider it necessary to state that, despite the claims and wishes of arrogance's spokesmen, the main directions of the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign policy, the basic foundation of which is the neither East nor West policy has not changed and can never be changed. The fuss raised by our enemies cannot deflect the government and people of Islamic Iran from the path which it has chosen with wisdom and which it has traveled with sincerity.

At a time when, with the division of the world into the Eastern and Western blocs, governments and regimes, and even political and revolutionary developments within countries had to join one of those two blocs and come under the influence of their leaders, that is, of either the United States or the Soviet Union, the principle of neither East, nor West was an announcement of the breaking of that pervasive spell and a liberation from the influence and power of both superpowers.

And today, when, with the changes in the Soviet Union and Europe, the Eastern bloc has been destroyed and the Soviet Union has lost its position as a superpower, and when the U.S. regime, on a stage on which it seems to have no rivals, is engaged in its drunken and arrogant displays and is, without adherence to the normal rules and customs of international relations, forcibly placing its own desires above the interests of all other nations; when it is willfully interfering in everything and committing every crime without restraint for the fulfillment of its own imagined interests; when it shamelessly covers its hands with the blood of innocent people and when it has made both the former Eastern and Western blocs the sphere for its own military presence, espionage, propaganda, and exploitation, the principle of neither East nor West means nonsurrender in the face of that arrogant greed, a serious confrontation of that regime's claims to the resources of the Islamic ummah, and the rejection and denial of the customs and practices which that regime has falsely manufactured on its own behalf in the place of accepted principles for the preservation of its own interests.

The Islamic Republic of Iran rejects ties with the U.S. regime which is the key to and the manifestation of bullying, unjust domination and the symbol of cruelty to the world's weak nations. And as long as that regime arrogantly oppresses nations, interferes in governments and countries, supports such illegitimate regimes as the detested Zionist regime, combats liberation movements and the awakening of nations, and especially carries out enmity against the vanguard Islamic Nation of Iran and uprisen Islamic nations, Iran will never establish ties with that regime.

Ties with other countries, whether European, Asian, or African, whether advanced industrial countries or otherwise, have always been considered desirable, if not necessary, so far as they are considered by officials to be in the interests and to the advantage of the country and the nation. Government officials have had and continue to have the duty to wisely pursue this aim. Let them and

the entire nation know—and they do know this—that the establishment of such ties and their consolidation will mar neither the East nor West principle.

Another point—even though, under the system of the Islamic Republic, the custom and tradition of criticism of and kind advice for officials is a divine gift and an Islamic honor, a source of growth and elevation and of the advancement of affairs, and a clear proof of the precept of the call to perform Islamic duties, and it must continue to exist in society and grow in quantity and quality—nevertheless, mingling this admirable and necessary task with the spreading of the spirit of pessimism and the casting of suspicion on the country's main officials and speaking ill of them, which could lead to the weakening of their morale or their position, would be a grave and treacherous offense.

If some people, by saying or doing things, or by their deliberate behavior, sow suspicion and doubt in the people's hearts about the country's high-ranking officials, and if they present the atmosphere and the horizon as dark and gloomy, they cannot be considered, in any terms or in accordance with any justification, as servants or well-wishers. Doing such a thing in our country, which benefits from an Islamic and revolutionary system and totally popular officials and a sincere and selfless nation, with incredible sympathy between the people and officials and brilliant talents and capabilities for carrying out tasks and making progress, with an outstanding prestige in the world and among the world's nations, would undoubtedly be to inflict a blow on the country's future and to betray the ideals of the revolution; it would be an unforgiveable sin.

In obedience to the unswerving path of the eminent deceased imam I regard giving support to all the country's legal institutions as a pressing duty, and I consider it incumbent on myself to declare my support for the government, the Majles, the judiciary, and other organizations. Moreover, I will not tolerate any kind of hostile or subversive behavior toward the sincere and sympathetic officials of the country. I consider it, especially, to be everyone's duty to defend the eminent president and the serving government, which, with God's wisdom, is now being run by one of the most outstanding personalities of the revolution and one of the most capable minds and hands of the country, someone who throughout 16 years of struggle and the 12 years after victory has always been in the front line of the revolution and in the most prominent position.

Of course, the country's officials should know that paying attention to criticism and advice, erasing the defects and blemishes of the tasks, observing the principles and values of the Islamic system, and preserving the revolutionary positions is a duty. Also, the competence of every official in the Islamic Republic depends on observing this duty and respecting it.

Within the system of the Islamic Republic, justice is the basis of all executive decisions. All the officials of the system—from the respected deputies of the Islamic Majles and the officials in charge of the various executive sections, especially the policy-making and specialized ranks to the judges and members of the judicial apparatus—should, in all seriousness, earnestly strive to implement and practice justice in society. Today, in our society, the highest step that can be taken to establish justice is to eliminate deprivation among the needy and poor who have mostly shouldered the main burden of the system in all the stages and are still doing so. And they have always defended the revoluton and Islam sincerely and earnestly. Defending the deprived strata to whom the revolution truly belongs should be at the top of the list of all the country's programs and plans and be the axis of all economic developments in the country's various sectors. The correctness of every policy and economic program should be considered in the light of its short-term and long-term progress in the achievement of this goal.

Also, the officials of the system, including the respected Majles deputies and executive and judicial officials, should be careful to keep their distance—meticulously and scrupulously—from the sicknesses that became endemic among officials under Taghuti [reference to shah's regime] and anti-people systems: the sickness of becoming intoxicated by luxury and the search for pleasure; the sickness of illegitimate wheeling and dealing and financial and administrative corruption; the sickness of arrogance and unsociability, neglecting people's needs, demands, will and presence; the sickness of unhealthy factional posturings and preference given to factional objectives over public interest and similar things which, if they become addictive, eat into the foundations of any system like worms, weakening it and rendering it hollow. Or, taking comfort in Taghuti traditions and the urge to revive them, and indifference toward and neglect of Islamic and revolutionary values which kills the heart and takes away the joy and enthusiasm of those who earnestly sacrificed their lives and possessions for the revolution, making them despondent and sad.

The officials of the system in every section, especially in the specialized and planning departments, should know that they are the sole saviors of the state and the people from the evil of the hegemony of the enemies and tyrants; from the evil of poverty and ignorance which is the sinister legacy of the Taghuts. To achieve this they need to observe Islamic values and justice and rely on the human resources of this nation and the devoted and earnest forces. And it is this that will free the country from dependence on foreigners and need for enemies. [passage omitted]

I thank Almighty God, for the victorious return of our dear and proud liberated POW's. And once again, I honor the name of these beloved ones who have assembled in Tehran right now and are rushing from all over the country to renew their allegiance with their great leader. [passage omitted].

I ask the Almighty to continue to bless this nation and all the world's Muslims with His favors and to protect the world's oppressed and helpless. God's mercy be upon you.

Ayatollah Khamene'i Speaks at Khomeyni's Tomb

NC0406103291 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0615 GMT 4 Jun 91

[Speech by Ayatollah 'Ali Hoseyni Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic Revolution, to pilgrims to the tomb of Ayatollah Khomeyni, at a ceremony celebrating the second anniversary of Khomeyni's death—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] I express my condolences to all the freedom-loving Muslims of the world, to all the oppressed, to all the sympathizers of humanity, to all those who attach value to human beings and to humanity, to the great Iranian nation, and especially to the esteemed family of the great one. I express my condolences especially to his dear and only son, Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin, Hajj Seyyed Ahmad, the apple of our eye and the apple of the imam's eye. [passage omitted]

Today I will discuss several clear and obvious truths after which I will draw one conclusion for the Iranian nation and another for all the world's Muslim nations. The first truth which no one can doubt is that our great imam gave strength and grandeur to Islam. The enemies of Islam wanted Islam to be weak, and unfortunately they succeeded to a great extent. They tried to throw Islam out of the scene and from the minds of the Muslim and non-Muslim nations. Corrupt and independent rules were in total concert with arrogance and the world network of the enemies of Islam in this abominable policy.

With his revolution, the great imam granted joy to the Muslims. He revived Islam and today in many countries, Islam is the wish and aspiration of the young, uprisen, and intellectual generation. One example is dear Palestine. For years much was said about Palestine and struggles were fought in vain. Today the Palestinian nation is fighting and resisting in the name of Islam. The struggle has been drawn from the organizations, groups, personalities, and leaders into the masses. This type of struggle will never fail. If a popular struggle continues, it will undoubtedly reach victory. This was thanks to Islam which was revived by the imam. He awakened the Islamic conscience in the Muslims.

In the Islamic countries in North Africa today, groups are fighting in the name of Islam to establish an Islamic rule and system. They have made progress. Before the movement of our great imam, who could have imagined such a thing? In the east and the west of the Islamic world, the Muslims have awakened. The personality of Muslim minorities in countries with infidel and atheistic rules, in European countries, has been revived and the Islamic identity has been revived among the Muslims, thanks to the imam and this immense movement by the imam.

The second truth is that the factor that made our great imam and our brave nation succeed in the path of this great struggle, was insight and patience. These were the two elements. It was a resistance coupled with insight. [passage omitted]

Today the struggle is against discord, duplicity, hypocrisy, empty slogans, lies, and braggarts who have filled the arrogant loudspeakers throughout the world. Many pay lip service to human rights, but they are lying. Many pay lip service to Islam, but they are lying. Their Islam is the Islam that is favored by the leaders of arrogance. Many paid and pay lip service to equality of men, but they were and are lying. The struggle now is a difficult one, both because of the power and money of arrogance and the propaganda, lies, and discord spread by arrogance and its minions. People who lack patience are easily fooled. Even today, there are sympathizers with the Islamic Revolution who have been fooled. They have not recognized the enemy. [passage omitted]

The third truth is that entire world—the oppressed and deprived masses, the Muslim masses, and the arrogant camp—has realized that the movement's home is the Islamic Republic. Therefore, all the hostilities in the world are, first and foremost, aimed at us. Among warm and apparently friendly remarks, we always see signs of hostility and spite. We know how hostile arrogance is toward the Islamic Republic, you—the nation—and the great imam, whom the enemy believes to be alive and whose hostility toward him has not decreased one iota. If the loudspeakers of arrogance and the camp of arrogance and its enemies thought that the imam had died, they would not be so hostile toward him or his name two years after his soul-rending demise. The center of hostilities is Islamic Iran. We are happy about this. It makes us hopeful instead of fearful because it shows that we are steadfast; we are powerful; we continue to be a large threat to the interests of arrogance and plunderers. The hostility of arrogance reassures us even more that the path that we have chosen is the correct one. It is the successful path for the progress of the revolution and for the construction of the country and the society. If in our movement we had taken the wrong path, against the interests of the enemies of humanities and for the interests of the revolution and the country, the enemy would not be so hostile toward us.

Today all the propaganda of the world in various forms is against us. Maybe some radios, some news and propaganda media do not insult us clearly. But this does not mean that they are friends. They know that their clear insult against us will bring the hearts of the nations of the world closer to us. Instead of clearly insulting us, they malign us. They portray themselves as being close to us and portray us as optimistic toward them. But this is one of their plots and maliciousness.

The world of arrogance will never trust the Islamic Republic, Islam, the imam, the students of the imam, and you—the nation—who are the imam's followers. This is to our benefit. It has been 12 years now that we

have progressed and that we have come closer to our objectives. They have been hostile toward us for these 12 years. Not for one moment during these 12 years did arrogance, led by America, not come to terms with us. It could not come to terms with us. We are the enemy of all the arrogant of the world and of all the plunderers and pillagers of nations. As long as the Zionist regime massacres, suppresses, and savagely batters the oppressed Palestinian Muslims can we forgive the hypocrite America? As long as Muslims in every corner of the world—in our region, in the Persian Gulf, in Iraq, and in other parts—are directly and indirectly pressured by and suffering from American policies, can we have good feelings toward that bullying, murderous, and genocidal regime? Can something like this happen?

That, then, is the third truth: Islamic Iran, the Iran of the imam, and the Iran of the revolution is the axis of this great world movement of Muslims and is, therefore, the center of hostilities.

I will now draw conclusions. The first is that you, the dear nation, should know that if you continue this auspicious movement that you have been carrying out for 12 years with unity and with your bonds with Islam, with the same bonds with Islam, with the same unity of word, and with the same power and grandeur that, with the help of God and support of the sympathizing officials, you will be able to overcome all the problems that the enemies of Islam have created for this nation in the past—both during 50 years [of the Pahlavi monarchy] and during the imposed war and the incidents around it—and build the country on a true Islamic model which is free and prosperous.

Be careful not to lose your patience. We scored a victory with patience and we should advance with patience. Be careful not to lose your insight. Recognize the enemy and its enmities. Recognize the enemy's ploys, propaganda, words, and rumors. Recognize what the motive is behind the enemy's words, rumors, false reports, and hypocritical remarks. The enemy is the enemy. Preserve your patience. Preserve your insight. Preserve your unity. Do not let people who lack insight or patience, or selfish people, or people who are inattentive of the people's public interests, who want to create discord among your tightened ranks on various pretexts do so and cast ill feelings in your hearts concerning the officials. Be alert and know that is the path to reach the objective. It is the path of the prophets and the imams and the wish of all the true believers throughout all past eras. Other nations are looking at you and want to learn from you. This is my advice to our dear nation.

My advice to the Muslim nations is: Let the Muslim nations, and especially the 'ulema, the intellectuals, and the combatant strata know that the secret for victory is in not fearing unstable rules; that is, these very arrogant powers. If you—the combatant Muslim nations—want to be victorious you should not fear America. [Crowd chants "Death to America"]

They cannot do anything. They have guns and military strength and firepower. But these are only effective if people are impatient and lack resistance. Guns and such pressures cannot be effective on people who are patient. People who are attached to worldly things can be affected. You saw how during the Persian Gulf crisis the dictators of Iraq, with all their boastings about their power and strength, retreated because they were interested in their life and position. This was not because of America's strength, but because of the weakness of those who faced America.

If a nation and a combatant group is ready to make sacrifices for objectives, nothing can stop it. This was the secret behind Iran's progress. All the combatant nations should remember this.

The second and very important point which the Muslim and combatant nations should remember is that they should not be fooled by the ploys of the enemy and by its propaganda. They should recognize their friend and their enemy, and they should condemn the enemy and its remarks.

If this happens, the Islamic movements will succeed. We believe that this is the era of Islam and the era when divine and moral values will conquer. And as I stated last year, this is the era of Imam Khomeyni. [Crowd chants "God is great"]

God willing, the future will be seen by our young generation. I will end my remarks. My health was not very suitable for giving a speech, but I found that I could not stop myself from being with you on such a day and in such a gathering, and from expressing my devotion to that noble and sacred spirit.

Dear God, we pray to you in the name of your imams, the Prophet Muhammad and his scion, and the blood of the martyrs to elevate the imam's name more and more each day and to make his path clearer each day. [Crowd chants "Amen"] Dear God, make the great Iranian nation more successful in achieving the lofty objectives of its imam. [crowd chants "amen"] [passage omitted]

Pakistan

Sharif Proposes Conference on Nuclear Issue

BK0606141891 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1400 GMT 6 Jun 91

[Text] Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has put forward a new proposal to solve the problem of nuclear proliferation in South Asia in the regional context with the cooperation of the United States, Soviet Union, and China. He announced the proposal in his address to the concluding session of the year-long defense course at the National Defense College in Rawalpindi today. He said Pakistan would like three nuclear powers to consult and meet both India and Pakistan to arrive at an agreement for keeping this region free of nuclear weapons on the basis of proposals already made or new ideas that will

emerge. He emphasized that a nuclear nonproliferation regime thus negotiated during the multilateral consultations should be equitable and nondiscriminatory.

Further on Sharif Proposal

BK0606160591 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 6 Jun 91

[Text] Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has put forward a new proposal for solving the problem of nuclear proliferation in South Asia in the regional context with the cooperation of the United States, the Soviet Union, and China. He announced the proposal in his address to the concluding session of the year-long senior defense course at the National Defense College in Rawalpindi today.

He said Pakistan would like the three nuclear powers to consult and meet both India and Pakistan to arrive at an agreement for keeping this region free of nuclear weapons on the basis of proposals already made or new ideas that will emerge. He emphasized that a nuclear nonproliferation regime thus negotiated during the multilateral consultations should be equitable and nondiscriminatory. He observed that the only practical way to resolve all the problems in this regard is to arrive at an agreement that may guarantee security for nonnuclear states and that will be acceptable to all nations of the region. This will go a long way toward creating an atmosphere of mutual trust and strengthening peace and stability in South Asia, thereby enabling the people of the region to utilize their resources and capabilities in accelerating the pace of economic development and improving the lot of the masses.

Expressing Pakistan's readiness to participate in the multilateral consultations on this issue, the prime minister said there are indications that the United States, the Soviet Union, and China will be inclined to support such a regional approach. He expressed the hope that these three countries will be ready to help Pakistan and India free the region of nuclear weapons. He also hoped that the concerned countries will respond soon to the proposal he has forwarded for the first time so arrangements can be finalized and the conference convened as soon as possible.

Referring to the proposals for nuclear proliferation put forward by Pakistan from time to time, the prime minister said he is satisfied with the fact that the regional approach on disarmament is being gradually encouraged and nuclear-free zones have been established in certain areas. He said he is ready for bilateral agreement with India or for a regional arrangement to keep South Asia free from all types of weapons of mass destruction. Nawaz Sharif categorically stated: We cannot and will not take a step that will jeopardize our national security.

On the security situation on borders, Nawaz Sharif referred to India's military buildup, its development of medium-range missiles, and its nuclear program, which is not subject to safeguards. He said India's refusal to solve the Kashmir problem peacefully and its efforts to suppress the struggle of the Kashmiri people in occupied Kashmir through brutal methods and large-scale use of force has increased the threat to Pakistan's security. Pakistan cannot neglect its security requirements nor can it be stopped from providing moral and political support to the Kashmiri people's struggle for realizing their right of self-determination in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

Referring to Pakistan's relations with the United States, the prime minister said even though the United States and Pakistan both fully support efforts for nuclear nonproliferation, the present difficulties are the result of differences in the two countries' approach toward stopping nuclear proliferation. The United States is paying special attention to Pakistan's nuclear program despite the fact that India has already carried out nuclear testing and possesses several uranium enrichment and reprocessing installations that are not subject to safeguards.

On Pakistan's relations with other countries, Nawaz Sharif said friendship with China is the cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy and their friendship is a means to strengthening peace and stability in the region. The prime minister added that Pakistan has special and fraternal relations with the Islamic world and it will continue its efforts to further expand its bilateral relations with Islamic nations in all fields.

Turning to Afghanistan, the prime minister said Pakistan has made efforts to expedite the process of political settlement of this problem, but a political solution hinges on the transfer of power from the Najibullah regime to a broad-based government in Kabul established in accordance with the wishes of the Afghan people.

Minister Reports on Ammunition Dump Blast

BK0206164391 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 2 Jun 91

[Excerpt] The National Assembly today began general discussion on the new federal budget this afternoon. Leader of the opposition Ms. Benazir Bhutto, who initiated the general discussion, criticized the budget saying that it does not provide anything to homeless, unemployed, hungry, and oppressed people. [passage omitted]

Earlier, in a brief statement in the house, the minister in charge of defense, Retired Lieutenant General Majid Malik, submitted details of the facts relating to the ammunition dump blast in Nowshera on Friday. Describing the event as a national tragedy, he said the entire nation is aggrieved over the loss of life and property in the mishap and it expresses its sympathies for those injured countrymen. With the death of a woman today, the number of those killed in the mishap has risen to 12. This woman was killed when she tried to pick up a bombshell, although the authorities, through the mass media office, appealed to the people not to touch any piece of ammunition seen lying around. He said 68 persons were injured in the mishap and according to estimates, 5 percent of the ammunition and other materials in the depot was damaged. A shed, where the ammunition was stocked, was gutted and about eight

other sheds containing uniforms and other clothing were also damaged. The fire damaged an office block and affected other facilities like water and electricity. He said according to the latest reports, the situation is fully under control and those who fled after the accident have started coming back to their homes now.

Giving details of the timely action taken by the officials after the blast, he said the safety system of the depot started working immediately and the alarms started ringing. Steps were taken to put out the fire. The affected area was cordoned off. He said after the first major blast, action was initiated within two hours and by midnight the fire was put out. To prevent further damage, traffic and movement of trains on G.T. Road was blocked, then later restored.

He said the government is equally concerned with the calamity and loss. He said the Army chief immediately rushed to the spot of the mishap and the president and prime minister reached there early in the morning. Orders for the relief operations were issued on the spot. He said orders have been issued to set up a court of inquiry, comprising senior military officials and experts. They will submit their report after completing the probe within a week. On the aftermath of the mishap, he assured the house that the government will take every step necessary to reduce the ill effects of the accident.

Army Suspects Sabotage

BK0106074991 Hong Kong AFP in English 0742 GMT 1 Jun 91

[Text] Nowshera, Pakistan, June 1 (AFP)—Army and officials suspected sabotage in friday's ammunition dump blast as secondary explosions continued to rock this major garrison city, claiming an unspecified number of casualties.

Rockets, mortars and artillery shells littered streets and roads around the Badrashi ammunition depot, in Nowshera District, witnesses said. Schools and colleges have been closed and the area has been declared a "danger zone."

"Sabotage is one of the possibilities," a Defence Ministry spokesman said.

Colonel Ghulam Sarwar, a member of the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) department, said explosions were continuing as late as mid-day Saturday, almost 20 hours after the first blast Friday afternoon.

Army chief Mirza Aslam Beg, who flew here late Friday, was on the spot as the massive rescue operation continued. Thousands have fled this northwestern city near the Afghan border.

The authorities have cordoned off the area and army troops were not allowing access to information.

The official ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN (APP) put the casualty figures at three killed and 20 injured.

In a separate dispatch 90 minutes later it said "in view of the seriousness of the situation due to huge explosions" a number of voluntary organisations have set up relief camps and blood was being collected for victims.

Newspapers throughout the country banner-headlined the tragedy, with casualty figures ranging from dozens to 200 killed in the blast.

Defence Ministry officials were to give details at a briefing scheduled late in the afternoon.

The Badrashi camp was a big ammunition depot catering to the troops in Pakistan's north and northwestern regions bordering Afghanistan.

Col. Sarwar denied reports that the depot was supplying weapons to the Afghan resistance fighting the Soviet-backed regime in Kabul.

F-16 Engine Rebuilding Facilities Set Up

BK0406092491 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 4 Jun 91

[Excerpts] The National Assembly when it resumed its session in Islamabad today was informed during question hour that the government plans to stop construction of three new highways during the coming financial year. [passage omitted]

The minister in charge of defense, Retired Lieutenant General Abdul Majid Malik, answering a question by the same member, said small arms manufactured by Pakistan are being exported to various countries. In reply to a question by Mian Mohammad Zaman, the minister in charge of defense said F-16 aircraft engine rebuild facilities were in the process of being established which have been withheld due to suspension of foreign military sales assistance to Pakistan by the United States. Answering a supplementary, he said no F-16 aircraft have been grounded due to lack of spare parts.

Sri Lanka

Tougher Stand Adopted Against Tamil Tigers

BK0606065991 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0444 GMT 6 Jun 91

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 6 June (LANKAPUVATH)—The killing of former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has promoted a harder stance against the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] in India and Sri Lanka, Presidential Advisor on International Affairs Bradman Weerakoon said.

He told the Colombo Fort Rotary Club at the Hilton on Tuesday [4 June]: "While in the past the Indian view was that one might talk with the LTTE and Sri Lanka's view was that one would wish to continue the dialogue interrupted in June 1990, today a harder view against the

LTTE appears to have taken over." He said this hardening of opinion is the result of the present disapproval of LTTE terrorism following the assassination of Mr. Gandhi which had complicated the picture.

Mr. Weerakoon warned: "However, even if the LTTE is eliminated, India would continue in the belief that the political framework created by Sri Lanka following the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement (1987) provided a viable basis for a reasonable and enduring settlement of the problem."

He said that despite Mr. Gandhi's killing, New Delhi's and Tamil Nadu's interest in Sri Lanka's ethnic problem would remain.

"As far as Delhi is concerned, whoever the leader—Congress (I) BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] or National Front—it appears that a bi-partisan policy on Sri Lanka will follow. This would emphasise: (a). Viability of the Indo-Sri Lanka accord, (b). India not sending troops to Sri Lanka, (c). India not allowing Indian soil to be used for activities inimical to Sri Lanka and (d). India not permitting foreign forces to interfere in Sri Lanka."

In this context, Mr. Weerakoon said, "Good relations with India would be strongly dependent on how we resolve the ethnic question, bearing in mind Indian concerns."

On the question of the resolution of the ethnic conflict, understanding India's perception of the resolution of Sri Lanka's ethnic conflict was important. India is concerned about the safety and security of the Tamil people and it prefers a form of political power-sharing arrangement as is in existence in India.

An understanding of how the Indian leaders perceive India's concerns, and an assessment of their other preoccupations are essential for the proper conduct of Sri Lanka's India policy, he said.

He listed India's three major concerns in Sri Lanka. They are: preservation of the integrity and unity of India, meeting the challenge of secession of ethnic and linguistic states, security threats from outside, and welfare concerns.

Sri Lanka's concerns were the unity, the integrity and sovereignty of Sri Lanka, security threats from outside, specially from Tamil Nadu, and welfare concerns.

Mr. Weerakoon concluded with two points: "Need to be cognizant of and if possible appreciative of each other's aspirations, concerns and interests; and to be nonconfrontational on both sides.

"Need to attempt to have in Sri Lanka a bipartisan approach to matters affecting relationship with India. [no end quotes as received]

Indian Team Probing Gandhi Case Holds Talks

BK0106160491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 1 Jun 91

[Text] The CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] team, now visiting Sri Lanka in connection with the investigation of Rajiv Gandhi's assassination, today met some non-LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] Tamil groups to get information about the bomb explosions in the island nation in the recent past. The team also had another meeting with Sri Lankan defense, intelligence, and security officials. The team is expected to be in Colombo for another two days.

Team Concludes Visit

BK0406145891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 4 Jun 91

[Text] A high-level CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] team today left Colombo for Madras after extensive discussion with their counterparts in Sri Lanka on the possible involvement of some militant groups in the bomb blast in which Rajiv Gandhi was killed. On the last day of their five-day visit, the members of the team today met the defense secretary, General Cyril Ranatunge; the inspector of police, Mr. Ernest Perera; and other intelligence officials. They had already met the prime minister, Mr. D.B. Wijetunge, in this connection.